

Oslo hosts Mideast water meeting

OSLO (R) — Delegates from Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and several Arab states met on Wednesday to discuss the problem of scarce water resources in the Middle East as part of the peace process in the region. The two-day meeting in a hilltop hotel overlooking Oslo was being hosted by Norway, which helped broker the historic peace accord between Israel and the PLO last year. The meeting was opened by Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Egeland, who said a solution to water issues in the Middle East would promote peace. "There are too many people and too little water," Mr. Egeland said. "We must help prevent the fight over water leading to a new serious conflict." The ministry said the meeting had drawn delegates from Israel, the PLO, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Tunisia and Morocco as well as the United Nations, the United States, Britain, France and Germany. Israeli delegation leader Avraham Katz-Oz told the national news agency NTA he hoped that Syria and Lebanon would attend any future multilateral talks on water.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز بوليتيكية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Bentsen urges Saudis to cut spending

JEDDAH (AP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen urged Saudi leaders Wednesday to make more spending cuts to overcome their economic woes. However, he did not publicly bring up U.S. concern over human rights following unusual public criticism from the State Department last week. He was the first cabinet member to visit the kingdom since the criticism, which followed a crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists. Mr. Bentsen, who arrived in the Saudi summer capital earlier in the day, met with Finance Minister Mohammad Abul Khail and Hamed Al Sayari, head of the Saudi Monetary Agency, which functions as the central bank. At a luncheon hosted by Mr. Abul Khail, Mr. Bentsen said that the Saudis should "take additional actions to shrink the fiscal deficit" on top of the 20 per cent cut in government spending provided for in this year's budget. The kingdom is grappling with severe financial problems caused by last year's sharp drop in oil prices and the financial aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war, which cost Riyadh an estimated \$21 billion.

Volume 18 Number 5734

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6-7, 1994, JUMADA ALAWAL 1-2, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Prince Ghazi named adviser

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday appointing His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad secretary to His Majesty King Hussein for cultural affairs. The appointment took effect as of Oct. 4, 1994.

Northern crossing nears completion

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordanian and Israeli soldiers were working round the clock Wednesday to finish a second crossing between the two countries due to be opened soon, a Jordanian official said. The crossing, open to foreigners only, will span the Jordan River and will be sited close to the debris of a bridge blown up in the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948. U.S. President Bill Clinton announced after talks in the White House on Monday between Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that the crossing would be opened in mid-October. The official told AFP military engineers on both sides were "putting the final touches to the project." Work on the site began six weeks ago.

Arms cache found in W. Bank village

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers uncovered an arms cache in a West Bank village and arrested several local people, military officials said Wednesday. The troops found grenades, an assault rifle, Molotov cocktails, a stock of knives, axes and truncheons in Baytuniya, near Ramallah, on Tuesday. In another operation near Bethlehem, a grenade and a barpoon gun were discovered at a Palestinian home, the officials said. In Baytuniya, villagers said troops detained about 50 Palestinians belonging to a variety of political factions and none had been released. Soldiers imposed a curfew while the men were rounded up by troops led by agents of the Shin Beth internal security service.

UAE urges Hague ruling on islands

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) called on Iran on Wednesday to let the World Court in the Hague settle their dispute over three islands in the Gulf held by Iran since 1971. UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi in a speech to the General Assembly said his country had pledged to accept the International Court of Justice's judgement. "The United Arab Emirates hopes that the Islamic Republic of Iran would share this sincere desire and would respond to our serious initiative," he said, noting that Iran has accepted the World Court's judgement in cases that favoured it. He said the emirates had sought direct negotiations on the islands — Lesser Tunb, Greater Tunb and Abu Musa — but Iran had failed to respond.

New chief claims leadership of GIA

LONDON (AFP) — A new leader, Abou Khalil Mahfoud, claimed Wednesday to be the head of Algeria's most radical armed fundamentalist group fighting the authorities, in place of the man named Sunday. A communique published by the Arab-language Al Hayat daily, based in London, said Mahfoud was the leader of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which has laid claim to numerous assassinations, including attacks on foreigners. The claim followed a previous statement, issued on Sunday, which said Mohammad Said, a former activist in Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), had been appointed to replace Cherif Gousmi, who was killed in a shootout with police late last month.

White House talks not meant to be political — Crown Prince

NEW YORK (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday that the Israeli-Jordanian meeting in Washington this week was not dedicated to solving outstanding Jordanian-Israeli issues or to discussing border and water questions and security. "The purpose of the Washington meeting was to follow up on ideas and concepts for economic development which the United States is keen on promoting through creating a free trading zone or through opening the doors for further investments in the region under the coming era of peace where all parties can participate in development," the Crown Prince said in an interview with Paris Orient radio.

He said that the meeting was also to underline the hope that 1994 would serve as the threshold of peace.

"Serious work and strenuous efforts are underway in bilateral negotiations and we are optimistic that there is hope that problems at this stage would be solved," he added.

Replying to a question about the substantial problems concerning water and borders between Israel and Jordan,

Prince Hassan said:

"The substantial questions are of major importance, and the Jordanian position is clear concerning the Jordanian sovereignty. We are discussing how to move from the routine discussion to real progress."

"I believe that His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Amman was clear, frank and characterised with seriousness and was a chance for examining the situation."

Asked whether a peace treaty would be signed by Jordan and Israel before the end of this year, Prince Hassan said he believed that 1994 could mark the threshold of peace but "it would be unrealistic to commit ourselves to a deadline for signing a peace treaty at this stage."

"However," he added, "I am optimistic that this year would mark the threshold for the hoped-for peace, provided that peace documents contain provisions that would concern all concerned parties, particularly the majority of people that they would reap the fruit of a just peace to which they aspire."

In reply to a question on why Jordan has "departed"

from coordination with the other Arab parties in talks with Israel, contradicting its former call for comprehensive peace, Prince Hassan said: "I do not believe that Jordan has departed from the coordination track and I believe that the coordination concept was not originally based on common vision concerning the method for negotiations perhaps because the concerned parties had no previous experience in such practice."

"However, eventually I believe the Arab parties would come to a common understanding that there can be no peace without the involvement of all sides in a general agreement."

Responding to an assertion that Jordan's talks with Israel had weakened the other Arab parties' stands, the Prince said: "I can not agree with you on this question that Jordan's position has weakened the other Arab parties' stand. On the contrary, I believe and hope that progress on the Jordanian track would serve as an example for similar progress that could be achieved on the other tracks."

On relations between Jordan and the Palestinians and issues concerning the guar-

dianship of the holy places in Jerusalem, the Prince said: "Jordan supports the Palestinian stand and quest at the self-rule level and beyond. Jordan supports the Palestinians' claims over the Palestinian lands, including occupied Jerusalem and supports their talks with Israel."

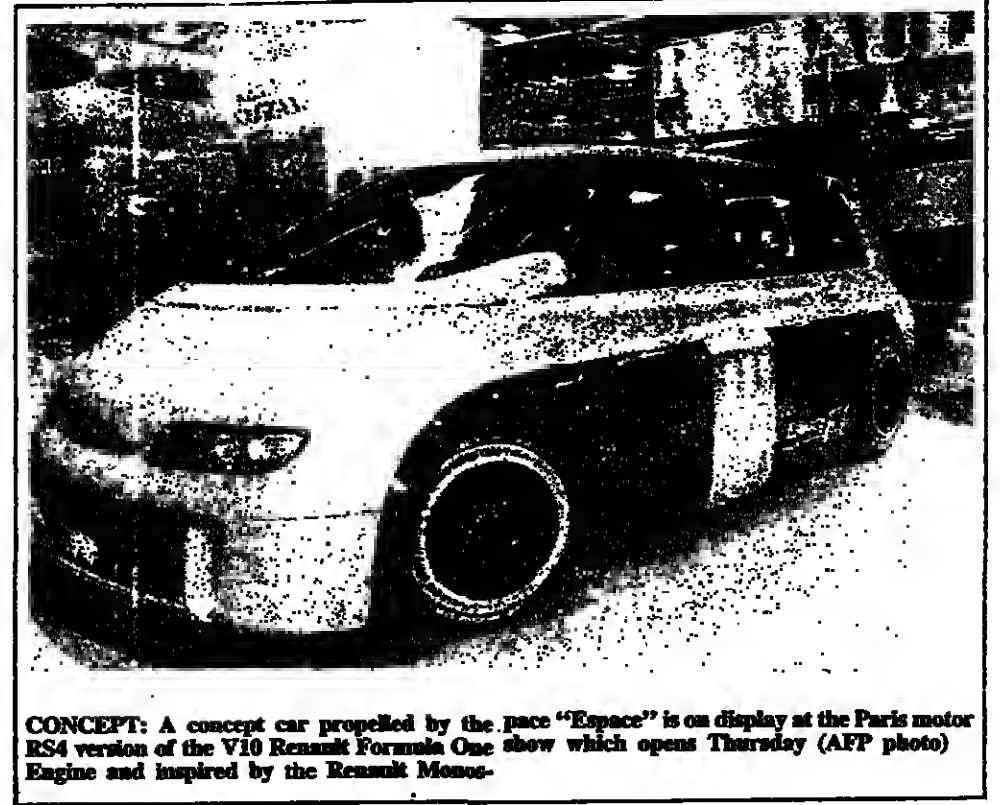
"But when we talk about the sacred character of the city we refer in particular to the need for involving all monotheistic faiths in matters related to shrines within the Walled City before the end of the year 2000."

"We hope that celebrations then would not be confined to churches and synagogues but also should involve the Sunnis and Shites who should partake in shouldering the responsibilities towards Jerusalem."

The Crown Prince met in New York with American business people whom he briefed on the incentives given to investors in Jordan.

The Prince answered questions and reviewed future prospects in the region under the era of peace.

Prince Hassan also met with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali with whom he reviewed Middle East peace efforts.



CONCEPT: A concept car propelled by the pace "Espace" is on display at the Paris motor RS4 version of the V10 Renault Formula One show which opens Thursday (AFP photo) Engine and inspired by the Renault Monoc.

'Israeli-proposed deals no answer to border demands'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has not agreed to any Israeli proposals to build joint projects in "disputed" territory as a means to sidestep problems over patches of territory in their ongoing work on determining borders, spokesman Marwan Mnasher said Wednesday.

Dr. Mnasher was commenting on a report carried by the Jerusalem Post that said Jordan and Israel were discussing a plan for "an innovative recreation and tourism complex" near an abandoned pre-1948 hydroelectric project in the north.

The land is Jordanian but the ownership belongs to the

Palestine Electric Company, popularly known then as Rottenberg, named after Pinhas Rottenberg, who was given the power concession by the Jewish Agency in the 1930s.

"What is important to Jordan is the return of Jordanian land and the demarcation of borders," Dr. Mnasher told the Jordan Times. "The Israelis have been suggesting that projects could be built in the border area not only in the north but also in the south as a means to settle the problem, but Jordan has not agreed to any such proposals," he added.

According to Israeli media reports, the Jewish state is also suggesting "leasing" of some of the land where Israelis have developed agri-

cultural farms or the exchange of an equal size of land elsewhere to avoid fully meeting Jordan's demand for the return of its territory.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali this week said that Jordan would not give up "an inch of its territory" and insisted on Israeli recognition of the Kingdom's territorial rights in full.

However, he left the door open for discussions on the Israeli proposals but only after the border demarcation has been completed.

"Once we establish these (border) lines and then if they want to discuss any other matters of rectification here or there, we are not

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Youth killed in Hebron

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldier shot dead a Palestinian who allegedly tried to stab one of them in the mosque massacre town of Hebron on Wednesday, military officials said.

Ziad Nasr Khalil, 21, was the 20th Palestinian killed by Israeli gunfire since Palestinian autonomy began in Gaza and Jericho on May 4. Palestinian witnesses told reporters the soldiers called Khalil to get out of his car and shot him in the head and chest as he did so.

"Then they put a knife and a leaflet next to his body," said one witness who refused to be named.

The shooting took place close to the Jewish settlement in the centre of the occupied town.

The army clamped a curfew on Hebron, where a Jewish settler murdered more than 30 Palestinians in February.

Troops had shot dead a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas as he was allegedly preparing to attack a Jewish settler leader near the Ibrahim Mosque on Friday. A soldier was stabbed and wounded in the back.

Two foreign tourists were wounded in a hand grenade attack on Wednesday near the Church of Lazarus in Bethany village in the occupied West Bank, Israeli security sources said.

In Bethany, an unidentified person threw a fragmentation grenade at the tourists' bus parked near the church, they said.

The sources earlier reported four tourists had been injured.

But the hospital later gave the number of casualties as two — an Italian woman, who was discharged after treatment for surface wounds, and a Spanish man, who was undergoing surgery for medium wounds.

Bethany was home to the Biblical Lazarus, who Christian trading says was resurrected from the dead after four days.

Palestinian tourism minister "Elias Freij condemned Wednesday's attack as 'criminal'."

Israel is to cede responsibility for tourism on the West Bank to the autonomous Palestinian Authority once funding is arranged.

Peres, Ben Alawi meet; plans for ties reported

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Foreign ministers of Israel and Oman, after an unannounced meeting, have agreed to consider economic and political ties, further improving Israel's relations with the Arab World.

The meeting between Israel's Shimon Peres and Oman's Yusuf Ben Alawi late Tuesday followed Oman's joining in a call last week for an end to the 46-year Arab League boycott of the Jewish state.

Earlier, Mr. Peres met at the State Department with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia, a step towards establishing relations between Israel and Tunisia from which tens of thousands of Jews migrated after Israel's creation.

Israel Radio reported Wednesday Israel is working with Bahrain, Qatar and Oman to open interest sections, the first step to full diplomatic relations.

A foreign ministry delegation held "successful" talks in Bahrain last week, the radio said.

Mr. Peres pursued the issue to separate meetings with Mr. Ben Alawi and with Qatar's Hamad Ben Jasssem

Ben Jabr Al Thani in New York during the U.N. General Assembly.

The moves follow Morocco's decision to open a liaison bureau in Tel Aviv while Israel will have a bureau in Rabat, Casablanca is to host an unprecedented Middle East economic conference at the end of this month and half of the Israeli cabinet, including Premier Yitzhak Rabin, is due to turn out.

Tunisia and Israel announced on Saturday they would soon open interest sections in Belgian embassies in each other's country — a step down from a liaison bureau on the ladder of diplomatic relations.

The six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — decided last Friday to ease the economic boycott of Israel.

The GCC pledged to drop the secondary and tertiary boycotts which ban Arab countries from dealing with foreign companies that do business with Israel.

But they are still enforcing the direct boycott of Israel.

Supreme court chief resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rifaaat Shammout, head of the Supreme Court, has resigned his post and requested that he be retired after 40 years of service with the judiciary.

The judicial council, chaired by Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tel, decided to accept the resignation as of Oct. 5 and said the council was holding meetings this week to choose a successor to Mr. Shammout.

A report in the local press quoted informed sources as saying that Khleif Subeimat, a judge in the Court of Cassation, was tipped to succeed Mr. Shammout to the post.

The council last Saturday appointed Ali Naasan as head of the Court of Cassation following the resignation of Abdul Karim Maath, who had also requested to be retired after a long service with the judiciary.

In a letter of resignation addressed to the justice minister, Mr. Shammout noted that following the resignation of Judge Maath and the retirement of his two colleagues, Hosni Jayousi and Fayez Mbeideen, he

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Murder in the name of honour

A supportive culture and lenient laws are making it easy for some families to end their daughters' lives, often simply because they suspect them of "immoral behaviour." Many are urging an end to this practice.

Rana Hussein reports:

AMMAN — On the evening of Wednesday, July 30, 1990, Ayed stabbed his 32-year-old married sister to death because he found a strange man in her apartment. Najah had "brought dishonour to the family. She had to die," Ayed felt he had to cleanse his family's honour.

Khaled killed his sister Kifaya, 16, after she had been raped by her other brother. He too felt that killing Kifaya was the only way "to cleanse the honour" of his family.

Kifaya and Najah were among 15 victims of reported "crimes of honour" in Jordan this year. Some of those victims were murdered because members of their families had ample proof they were committing "immoral acts." Others lost their life as a result of anonymous letters accusing them of such acts.

According to General Abdul Karim Tarawneh of the Public Security Criminal Investigation Department, a crime of honour is an act in which an individual evaluates and judges a woman's conduct as immoral, decides to take action on his own, and kills her.

"There is not much we can do," said Gen. Tarawneh. "Our job as authorities is to detain the suspect and transfer him to the

courts, which will decide what the individual deserves," he added.

Police records of the past 10 years show that "crimes of honour" have ranked highest among all murders committed in Jordan. On average, 28 women are killed in crimes of honour each year.

One lawyer with extensive court room experience in defending men charged with murder in honour killings claims that the number of honour crimes committed in the Kingdom is actually double that in police records.

"About 60 women die in 'honour killings' each year, and about 500 women file assault complaints against their husbands each year, but the vast majority of cases are not reported," said Zahra Sharabiah, who has a private practice in Amman.

University of Jordan sociologist Musa Shweiri

agrees. He says reported cases do not reflect the magnitude of the phenomenon, which is deeply rooted in the evolving gender roles in the country.

Dr. Shweiri attributes the increase in the number of honour crimes to the rising numbers of employed Jordanian women who are exposed to public life. There is strong resistance from society, particularly men, to accepting these changes, he said.

"The majority of men perceive women's participation (in the labour force) as a process leading to a weakening of their power and changing of their roles," Dr. Shweiri says.

"Our society does not mind women getting an education and working, provided that women still play the traditional role expected of them and at the same time remain under male domination," he adds.

Another university

sociologist, Sari Nasser, cites the changing patterns in social behaviour as a factor behind the rising numbers of crimes of honour.

"You see family members coming into contact with people outside, and as a result the men start suspecting their female relatives of immoral behaviour and they tend to hurt, torture or kill the suspects," he said.

Most crimes take place in poor, crowded areas where people are in close contact and news travels quickly, says Dr. Nasser.

A crowded house where friction among family members is common is another factor, adds Dr. Nasser, who heads the Sociology Department at University of Jordan.

According to studies conducted by the National Committee for Combating Crime, which was established in 1986 and is com-

posed of academics, activists, politicians and senior police officers, crimes of honour stem from the disintegration of family ties and the deterioration of the social infrastructure.

"Dense populations in certain areas sometimes cause such crimes because neighbours and friends will have heard of the incident and the family feels its only choice is to kill the girl," Dr. Nasser explains.

So what is the legal recourse?

The civil law addresses murders deemed as crimes of honour in various ways.

The exonerating law, which is a section of article 340 in the Jordanian Penal Code (no 16, 1960), states that "he who discovers his wife or one of his female relatives committing adultery and kills, wounds, or injures one or both of them, is exempted from any

(Continued on page 7)

هنا من الأهل

Palestinians fear election may not be democratic

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Many Palestinians have mixed feelings about the planned elections to a self-rule council, fearing that conditions are not yet conducive to a truly democratic ballot.

"It is fine to organise elections, provided they are democratic," said Grita Zarzar, an accountant in the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

"Most of the younger generation has not been to school and has gone straight from revolution to independence," she said, fearing that the results could "reflect too much passion or sectarianism."

"We need educated people who know how civilised nations behave so we can copy them," she added.

Since Monday Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been trying to reach agreement in Cairo on arrangements for the elections to the autonomy council which will run civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat wants the council — which will replace the appointed Palestinian National Authority (PNA) — to be elected by May 1.

But when talks began Monday Israel declined to set a date for the poll, which was originally scheduled for July, and refused to discuss an army redeployment on the West Bank which the Palestinians say must take place before the elections.

Hassan Manah, 70, a resident of the Dahsheh refugee camp, warned that the elections "run the risk of being held on a tribal basis, because tribes play a big role in our society."

He said he would prefer elections "based on parties, but we are still a long way from that."

"I want the poll to be democratic and open to all sections of the population," he added.

Palestinian officials said Monday Mr. Arafat had approved a draft election law under which the winners would rubber-stamp him as chairman of the new authority.

Mr. Arafat would not stand for election but be returned automatically as Palestinian leader by a 100-member self-rule council.

But the Israelis want to restrict the council to 24 members.

Israeli chief negotiator Danny Rothchild Tuesday denied that an electoral law had already been adopted. He said people who had committed crimes inside Israel and members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Iraam), which is violently opposed to the self-rule deal, should not be allowed to stand for election.

Rassas, a nurse at the Jaffa Daud hospital, said Palestinian parties should be set up "on the European model, so they can deal with the problems of society and the environment."

Mazen Farraj, 22, a resident of the Dahsheh camp, welcomed the elections but said they should be held

"under international supervision and in accordance with very clear electoral rules."

For Nasser Al Sharabati, 33, from the troubled West Bank town of Hebron, "conditions are not yet favourable for holding elections."

He said the poll should wait for "total independence."

Palestinian organisations had become "redundant, and they should be replaced with new parties," he added.

But Atef Al Zuhair, a trader in Jerusalem, welcomed the elections.

"This is a popular demand which reflects our identity and allegiance. One could only wish the elections had been held a lot earlier."

Israel and the PLO are still divided over the electoral rolls.

General Rothchild commented that the Palestinians "don't know who lives in the West Bank because some inhabitants only have residency permits. They haven't taken a census for several years."

But his counterpart, Palestinian local government minister Saeh Erakat, said the Palestinians had completed their survey of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, and were waiting for the Israelis to provide them with information on the West Bank population.

Only the Israeli military administration which ran the West Bank and Gaza after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war has detailed information on the Palestinian population but has not handed it over despite repeated PLO requests.

Riyadh on offensive to divide Islamist critics

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi authorities have gone on the offensive against their critics amid mounting calls from religious leaders for a radical shake-up of the Gulf kingdom along Islamic lines.

A fatwa, or religious decree, was issued this week in a bid to stifle criticism from an Islamic human rights group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR).

The fatwa, issued by a former CDLR member, Sheikh Abdullah Al Jibrin, banned "the distribution of statements" from the group, which has mounted scathing attacks on the policies of the Saudi royal family.

The CDLR was banned in Saudi Arabia just days after it was founded in May 1993, prompting Sheikh Jibrin to leave, but has continued to issue statements from London.

Sheikh Jibrin, now a member of the Council of Ulama, Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority, said the CDLR "should have made recommendations instead of issuing statements which may have revealed secrets or contained erroneous information."

He also poured scorn on the group's leader, Mohammad Masari, "who is not reputed to have a solid theological training and who completed his higher education in a foreign language."

Mr. Masari graduated in physical sciences from a university in former West Germany.

However, the sheikh's statement made no mention of arrests of opposition activists, condemned by the CDLR.

Last month the CDLR claimed that some 1,500 pro-reform activists had been arrested in a military-style crackdown by Saudi authorities.

Mr. Masari said a "climate of fear" had descended on the kingdom after the sudden arrests.

The Saudi Interior Ministry responded by announcing 110 opponents had been rounded up, including two leading clerics accused of holding "contacts with suspect groups based abroad."

The aim of the foreign groups was to "sow discord and anarchy in Saudi Arabia," the ministry said.

It was the first wave of arrests to be announced by Riyadh since 1979 and the ministry warned it would further "strike with an iron fist anybody who dares to harm the country's security."

The official press immediately condemned what it described as an anti-Saudi campaign orchestrated from abroad, and urged the government to demonstrate its "resolve against those who spread sedition" in the country.

Another exiled Saudi opposition group, the Organisation for the Council and Defence of Legitimate Rights, was set up in April by Osama Ben Laden, a Saudi, stripped of his nationality and based in Sudan.

The Al Saud family are reported to be worried by the threat posed by both opposition groups, fearing the sympathy they inspire abroad and the possibility that they could join forces with other Arab fundamentalist groups.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait expellees to set up rights group

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Several thousand stateless people who were expelled from Kuwait after the Gulf war set up a defence association in Iraq on Tuesday to draw attention to their plight. The Ashab Al Haq League of Kuwait will "defend the rights of stateless people" from Kuwait, said Nayef Al Ghanem, a non-national who now lives in Iraq. Members of the new group will hold a sit-in in the desert region along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border to make public opinion aware of their situation, Mr. Ghanem added. More than 240,000 stateless people lived in Kuwait before Iraqi troops invaded in August 1990, but their numbers were halved after the Gulf of the following year when a U.S.-led coalition liberated Kuwait. Several thousand had been expelled by the Kuwaiti authorities. Many travelling to Iraq where they are now called "bedouin." Sit-in demonstrators will call for "the right to go back to their adopted country" of Kuwait, Mr. Ghanem added. Kuwait's stateless people descend from bedouins who refused to take or were not offered Kuwaiti nationality when the Gulf emirate became independent in 1961.

Egypt opens embassy in Sarajevo

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has decided to open an embassy in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo and a charge d'affaires will be posted there soon. Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Tuesday. Musa made the announcement after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Egypt joined Bosnia's Muslim government in its fight against a recent U.N. Security Council decision to ease sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro for their support for Bosnian Serbs fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Egyptian soldiers are participating in the U.N. Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia.

Ex-minister's son arrested in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police Tuesday arrested the son of former Labour Minister Saad Mohammad Ahmad in the port city of Alexandria in connection with a corruption scandal, police said. Wagdi Saad Mohammad Ahmad was sentenced in absentia to three years in jail three months ago for having received a bribe from a construction firm which wanted to win a contract for a labour union building in Alexandria. The court ruled that the former minister's son, a union official, had favoured a firm which put in a bid less competitive than those of rival companies. The rivals were offering to complete the building at a cost 1.5 million Egyptian pounds (\$445,000) lower than the favoured bid. A former deputy, Mohy El Rahman Abdul Aziz, and a former Alexandria city councillor received similar jail sentences at the same trial, but they are still on the run.

Japan to help Iran clean up Tehran air

TEHRAN (AFP) — Japan is to help Iran improve their air quality of its capital Tehran, considered to be one of the most polluted cities in the world, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday. An agreement was signed here Tuesday between Tehran Mayor Gholam-Hussein Karbaschi, and a representative from Japan's environmental agency, Hyochi Baggi, for joint cooperation in pollution control, it said. The governments of Iran and Japan will finance the clean-air project which will last two years, IRNA said, adding that preliminary studies had started 18 months ago. According to official Iranian estimates, each of Tehran's 10 million residents inhales an average of half a gram of lead per day. The pollution has been blamed mainly on the number of old cars, low-quality fuel and poor combustion. Tehran is also situated on the slopes of the Alborz mountain range at high altitude.

German sentenced for taking tanks to Syria

KIEL, Germany (AFP) — The owner of a German freighter found in 1992 to be transporting 16 tanks to Syria was fined and given a one-year suspended jail sentence at a court here Tuesday. The ship owner, who was ordered to pay a fine of 10,000 marks (around \$6,500), told the court he did not know at the time that he needed official approval to transport tanks to Syria. The Czech-made tanks had been loaded on the freighter the Godewind at the Polish port of Szczecin in January 1992. Three German navy boats intercepted the ship and the inspectors discovered the tanks in its cargo. The court ruled that the fact that the tanks were being taken to a region that was "in crisis" was an aggravating factor in the offence.

481 Kurdish refugees return from Iran

ERBIL (AFP) — A total of 481 Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Iran have returned to northern Iraq in the past few days, a United Nations official said Tuesday. The refugees belonged to 97 families who agreed to be repatriated by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UNHCR official said. "We provided them with transport and our resettlement package. They are all in their villages," he said. A UNHCR official in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, Sajal Gupta, said last month that Iraqi Kurds were returning from Iran at a surprisingly low rate. Mr. Gupta blamed clashes between rival Kurdish factions of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) for preventing refugees from returning. "Instead of at least 10,000 people expected, only 200 families have returned," he said. A KDP official who did not want to be named said refugees had difficulty returning to northern Iraq. "Iran doesn't like these people to return home because as refugees" they attract international funding to Tehran, he said. An estimated one to two million Iraqi Kurds fled to Turkey and Iran as the Iraqi army fought to put down a Kurdish rebellion inspired by Iraq's defeat in the January-February 1991 Gulf war. Kurds have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad and with U.S.-led protection since the end of the war.

Egypt to crack down on Nile polluters

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities will on Saturday begin a crackdown against businesses in three Egyptian provinces that pollute the Nile river, an Egyptian official said Tuesday. The Ministry of Works and Water Resources and police will join forces to turn over to the prosecutors unlicensed businesses along the Nile banks stretching from Cairo to its neighbouring southern provinces of Giza and Helwan, Water Resources Minister Abdul Hadi Rady said. His remarks came in a statement carried by the state official newspaper Al Akhbar in its Wednesday edition. The targeted businesses include industries that dump waste into the Nile, unlicensed from the National Council of Social Development said 46 per cent of Egypt's industrial waste is thrown straight into the Nile every day, becoming the Nile's main pollutant.

Libya releases Greek vessel

ATHENS (AP) — A Greek ferry boat and its crew of 80 returned to Athens' port of Piraeus after being released by Libyan authorities, the Merchant Marine Ministry said Tuesday. The 1,612-tonne Greek-flagged Vergina was released on Saturday after a trial and arrived back in Greece on Monday, a ministry spokesman said. The ship was seized in Tripoli on Sept. 11 on charges that it had originally been built for an Israeli company in 1964 and therefore violated an Arab embargo on Israel. Its owner, Stability Maritime Inc., of Liberia, had chartered it to a Libyan company. Libyan authorities were reported at the time to be preparing to confiscate the ship after putting its Greek captain on trial. At least two of the crew members are Greek. "What saved us is that for two years, from 1976 to 1978, the ship had sailed under the flag of Saudi Arabia," Athens' Ta Nea newspaper quoted shipowner Elias Karaliaris as saying. In the directory of Greek-flagged and Greek-owned ships, the Vergina is listed as having been called the Saudi Moon in the past. "None of us knew that the ship had been built in Israel. If we had known we would not have taken such a risk," the ship's captain, Christos Gidopoulos, told reporters. He spent five days in jail after the ship was seized.

Britain defence minister to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Britain's Secretary of State for Defence Malcolm Rifkind, will pay a five-day visit to Israel from Oct. 20, the defence ministry announced Wednesday. He will talk with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also holds the defence portfolio, and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Barak. Mr. Rifkind's trip follows London's decision last May to lift an arms embargo imposed on Israel after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Rafsanjani postpones India visit

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has postponed a visit to India because of the outbreak of plague in that country, a newspaper reported here Wednesday. Rafsanjani said the Indian government was "trying" to find a new date for a visit by Mr. Rafsanjani, who was scheduled to arrive in India next week as part of a tour of four Asian countries. He is expected to go on with his visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, the paper said. The visit to India was to have taken place in response to a trip to Iran by Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in September 1993.

Eagles flock over Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A huge flock of 15,000 migrating eagles flew over Israel heading for Egypt, the society for the protection of nature announced Wednesday. The birds of prey were spotted Tuesday crossing north of Tel Aviv, over the West Bank, and Jerusalem flying south towards the desert and Egypt in the evening. The flock of "aquila pomarina" from Europe, was spread out over 60 kilometres, the society's ornithology director Chaim Alfia told AFP. "About three million large migratory birds transit during daylight hours each season and more than 500 million small birds pass over at night from September to early November," he said. "About half come back in spring to return to Europe for the nesting period," he said. Israel is the world's largest flyway for migratory birds along with South America and the skies often teem with birds from storks to swallows en route to Europe, Africa and Asia.

Hebron hospital maternity unit shut

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — The Israeli military administration has closed the maternity ward of Hebron's Alia Hospital following the death of six newborn babies, officials said Wednesday. The first infant died on September 20 and the last on Friday. The administration, which runs the hospital, at the weekend shut the ward in an old wing of the hospital until a rampant infection is halted and renovation carried out. Chief obstetrician Dr. Youssef Sharawi said he had long warned the administration of poor hygiene. "Windows cannot be closed and cans, if not rats, have come into the ward," he said. Officials said surgeons had been operating at the hospital without plastic gloves after supplies ran out. The Israeli administration is due to hand over responsibility for health in the West Bank, along with social welfare, taxation, and tourism, once agreement is reached with the autonomous Palestinian Authority on funding the services. Israel ceded control of the education system to the Palestinians in August.

Fish killed by waste dumped in river in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Around one million fish died this week in a river polluted by industrial waste in southern Iran, newspaper reported here Wednesday. The waste chemicals dumped in the Kor river came from a sugar factory in Marvdasht, Fars province. The environmental protection agency in the provincial capital Shiraz has filed a suit against the plant.

Pelletreau sees barriers breaking down in Mideast

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "We can see the barriers, both psychological and physical, breaking down" throughout the Middle East, Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, told the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East Wednesday. One of the most significant developments, Pelletreau said, is a wide-ranging discussion of the region, was the recent decision by the six members of the Cooperation Committee to end the second and tertiary negotiations and to start a new round of talks. This will help the countries assist the Palestinians in developing their economy and infrastructure. He said the talks would follow the lead of the PLO and the total lifting of the boycott is Syria, Pelletreau said, since Damascus has been a key player in a negotiation with Israel. The States feels that it has ended immediately, however, as this would be a confidence-building measure for the region, he said.

Despite Syrian opposition, Pelletreau remarked, the "point is being evanescent within" as private businessmen in a number of countries become involved with private Israeli business ventures. He also noted the recent agreement between Israel and Tunisia, establishing economic liaison offices. This marks "the beginning of normalising their relations," he commented.

Pelletreau noted that the Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres and Crown Prince Hassan met at the White House Monday and announced "a number of positive measures." Among them are plans for opening a northern border crossing; exploring a free trade zone in the region around Aqaba River Valley; and the possibility of digging a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea.

Mr. Pelletreau met with sharp questioning from Representative Tom Lantos (Democrat-California), who recalled that the House of Representatives had passed several resolutions calling for U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. Mr. Pelletreau responded by reiterating U.S. support for the September 1993 Israeli/Palestinian Declaration of Principles, which holds Jerusalem to be a final status issue. "We're not going to take any positions contrary to that," he stated.

Responding to Mr. Lantos' questions about Syrian support for terrorism, Mr. Pelletreau acknowledged that "Syria provides safe haven and support for a wide variety of organisations" engaged in terrorist activities, such as Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Hizbollah, and the Kurdish PKK movement. "It is our hope that over time" such Syrian support will change, and thus permit the U.S. to remove the country from its list of nations supporting terrorism, he stated. Until then, however, Syria will remain on the list and the subject "will be part of our on-going dialogue" with Damascus, he said.

Turning to U.S. relations

with Iran, Mr. Lantos remarked that there was "a dark cloud" over the Middle Eastern horizon — "radical Islamic fundamentalism," whose origins lay in Iran.

Mr. Pelletreau enumerated a number of U.S. concerns over Iranian government policies: its attempts to purchase and produce weapons of mass destruction (WMD); opposition to the Israeli/Palestinian peace process; subversion of moderate countries in the region; and the repression of its own population.

He also noted U.S. efforts to work with the G-7 nations to prevent Iran from obtaining technology for WMD production. "We do not see our allies providing direct support to Iranian high-tech military supply of weapons of mass destruction." However, he acknowledged that allies such as Japan and Germany are furnishing Iran credits which gives Tehran "the additional wherewithal" to pursue its WMD projects. "In this we disagree with them," he said.

Mr. Pelletreau also stated that Iran, along with Syria, has received Scud B and Scud C missiles and technology from North Korea. The U.S. has raised this with the North Koreans, but thus far to no effect, he said. As for an eventual Iranian nuclear capability, Mr. Pelletreau said he believed it to be seven to 10 years away.

Mr. Pelletreau acknowledged allegations that Iran may have been behind the recent bombing of Jewish centres in Argentina and England, but said there was no clear evidence to support the view.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
10:30	Antenne El Le Portait De Fem
11:00	News in French
11:30	Road to Avonlea
12:00	News in Arabic
12:30	Snowy River
13:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Wide Eyed and Legless"
23:16	Never The Twin
PRAYER TIMES	
04:11	Fajr
11:24	Sunrise (Dhuha)
12:24	Dhuhr
14:45	Asr
17:21	Maghreb
18:38	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. George Church, Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637740	
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church, Tel. 623546	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Hot weather conditions will prevail with a chance of thunderous showers in the eastern parts of the Kingdom and winds easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max temp.	21/35
Amman	26/41
Deserts	19/37
Jordan Valley	27/40
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 41, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamal Ja'bari	796440
Dr. Hisham Karan	790286
Dr. Walid Al Masi	673485
Dr. Adnan Zughloul	898140
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637053
Nairokh pharmacy	636782
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	646943
Shmiciari pharmacy	637660
Najih pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu	279773
Alquds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Walid Halasa	982799
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hosain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi's Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	778121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605880
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Overseas Calls	010230
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	
Radio Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	668100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636361
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by	

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
03:25	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:00	Aden (RJ)
07:15	Sana'a (RJ)
08:45	New Delhi (RJ)
09:00	Dubai, Jeddah (RJ)
09:15	Riyadh (RJ)
09:30	Agartsa (RJ)
10:00	Seoul (RJ)
10:00	Colombo (RJ)
12:00	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
17:00	
18:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:30	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:45	Athens (RJ)
20:00	Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
20:50	Rome (RJ)
23:50	Larnaca (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
12:10	Sharjah (AH)
12:30	Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:00	Riyadh (SV)
16:15	Dubai (EK)
19:20	Cairo (MS)
20:15	Beirut (ME)
21:20	Istanbul (TK)
01:25	Amsterdam (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:45	Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00	Rome (RJ)
11:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:27	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:35	Paris (RJ)
12:00	Athens (RJ)
12:15	London (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
19:15	Larnaca (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30	Riyadh (RJ)
21:30	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:45	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:55	Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:15	Beirut (ME)
13:10	Algiers (AF)
13:30	Doha, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
14:30	Riyadh (SV)
17:15	Dubai (EK)
20:15	Cairo (MS)
02:25	Amsterdam (KL)

MARKET PRICES	
Upper lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700/430
Banana	620
Banana (Mukammal)	680
Cabbage	110/30
Carrot	300/200
Cauliflower	250/160
Cucumbers (large)	140/80
Cucumbers (small)	340/240
Eggplant	270/140
Garlic	1250/900
Grapes	600/400
Grapes (Hilwani)	950/600
Onion	250/150
Onion (green)	340/200
Onion (dry)	360/260
Sweet Potato	340/200
Pepper (hot)	300/200
Pepper (sweet)	340/240
Potato	320/220
Pomegranate	280/200
Spinach	280/200
Strawberry	230/160
Strawberry	750/450
Watermelon	200/120



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday meets with Minister of Education Abdul Razzaq Rawabdeh and directors of education to discuss the educational process and the ministry's proposals for improving the income of the country's teachers (Petra photo)

London mayor to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Paula Newall, will visit Amman from Oct. 11-15 as the guest of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to a British embassy statement Wednesday.

While in Jordan, he will meet with Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi and Mayor of Amman Mamdouh Abadi, said the statement.

The Lord Mayor of London holds an historic position whose responsibilities are

different from those of most mayors today, according to the embassy. The Lord Mayor is head of the Corporation of London, a body which governs the historic City of London (which is in effect one of the municipalities which make up modern London). Since the City of London is one of the foremost financial centres in the world, the Lord Mayor takes a leading role in promoting the financial services it offers, said the statement.

The present Lord Mayor, Sir Paul Newall, is an investment banker by profession.

He was previously executive director of Shearson, Lehman Hutton Securities (now Lehman Brothers Securities).

His civic and voluntary appointments include sheriff of the City of London 1989-90, justice of the peace for the City of London and patron of the International Centre for Child Studies.

The Lord Mayor will be accompanied by his wife, Lady Newall and by two senior officials, John Holland (Chief Commoner) and Colonel John Ansell (Sword-bearer).

Irsheidat defends hike in agricultural water tariffs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government's recent decision to hike the price of agricultural water will allow the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to devote funds to other pressing needs in the area of general water distribution, said Minister Saleh Irsheidat Wednesday at a meeting with members of the House Agriculture Committee at Parliament.

Defending the price increase Mr. Irsheidat said that the government has, to date, been subsidising the prices of water for irrigation at the rate of 20 to 30 times the price paid by the farmers.

The ministry has other obligations to meet, such as improving the country's

water network, he said. Lack of funds has forced the ministry to borrow hard currency for such schemes, said the minister.

He said the ministry's decision aimed at controlling the distribution of water at a time when the country has an estimated 141 million cubic metres of underground water reserves.

A total of 13,000 dunums of land in the Jordan Valley are planted with banana trees, and 55,000 dunums with other fruit trees, while 193,000 dunums are used to cultivate vegetables and these farmlands, he said, need huge quantities of irrigation water.

Mr. Irsheidat said such farming practices promp-

ted the government to exercise stricter control over water distribution and prices.

The main problem facing farmers is not water, he said. According to the minister other more expensive agricultural inputs and the need to secure new markets abroad are the problems.

The government realises the burdens shouldered by the farmers and has been doing all it can to help them open new markets in Arab and foreign countries, he said.

The Agriculture Committee last August requested that the government refrain from hiking the prices of irrigation water.

Irbid police search for clues in stabbing death of businessman

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police are investigating the death of a 50-year-old man who was found stabbed in his office in Al Shimali suburb of Irbid Tuesday morning, police reports said.

A police official told the Jordan Times Wednesday that they were informed by citizens that there was a body in an import/export office in the Shamali area.

Investigations later determined the identity of the deceased as Rushdi T.H., the owner of the office.

The official said that Mr. Rushdi, who worked alone in the office, went as usual to

his office at 7 a.m. A few hours later, the official said, police were informed about the body.

Criminal investigators who examined the body and the scene of crime said there was a tie wrapped tight around Mr. Rushdi's neck. In their report, they said Mr. Rushdi was stabbed several times in the heart and chest.

The police official, who was contacted by telephone in Irbid, refused to release any further details in the case.

"It is a sensitive issue and there is nothing I can say other than that we are still questioning witnesses," the official told the Jordan Times.

As of Wednesday evening, police were still investigating the crime and searching for the murder weapon.

A 28-year-old woman died Tuesday in Hussein camp of electrocution, a police report said.

The victim, identified only as M.A.M., was discovered by her husband who told police that when he returned home from work, his wife was lying near an electric plug.

He said his wife was washing the floor of their house and touched a plug attached to an electrical outlet.

The woman was rushed to Al Bashir Hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

AMF grants Jordan \$32m in credit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) have signed an agreement under which the Kingdom would get around \$32 million in AMF credit to help its economic restructuring programme, the Abu Dhabi-based fund announced Wednesday.

It was the first such credit from the AMF to Jordan in recent years and was also seen as a small sign of improving relations between the Kingdom and the Gulf states, which are majority shareholders in the fund.

The agreement was signed by AMF Director General Jassim Al Mannai and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi, an AMF statement said.

The statement said the signing took place in Madrid on the fringes of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

The meetings are attended by finance ministers from

all over the world and most heads of international and regional monetary organisations.

"The AMF today approved the Jordanian government's request for an extended loan amounting to about eight million Arab accounting dinars (AAD) corresponding to nearly \$32 million," said the statement. "The new loan is the ninth to be extended to Jordan by the AMF," said the statement, carried by Reuters. "It brings the cumulative overall amount lent to Jordan to nearly AAD 30 million, representing about \$130 million."

The AAD is the currency unit of the AMF along the lines of the special drawing rights (SDRs) of the IMF and equals to three SDRs.

The AMF statement did not give details of the terms of the loan, which will be used by Jordan to improve its balance of payments.

Economist and columnist Fahed Fanek said that AMF loans normally carry the base international com-

mercial rate plus a small percentage, which would mean four to five per cent per annum.

The AMF is an Arab League body and groups most Arab countries. Arab central banks, including the CBJ, are the shareholders of the fund with varying shares depending on their contribution to the AMF capital.

Dr. Nahnisi served as an advisor to the AMF for a short period in 1989 before being brought back as governor of the CBJ.

Dr. Fanek said the \$130 million mentioned represented the total amount that the AMF had lent to Jordan since the fund was established.

The CBJ's statistical bulletin of March 1994 showed that Jordan owed the AMF JD 3.9 million at the end of 1993, down from JD 14.8 million in 1991 and JD 7.7 million in 1992.

Dr. Fanek noted that Jordan, "as a shareholder of the AMF, is entitled to receiving loans from the fund," and, as such, it was

normal that the Kingdom receives AMF credit.

"Although it is not a very important aspect, the loan indicates an improvement in Jordan's relations with the Gulf states," Dr. Fanek told the Jordan Times, pointing out that the Gulf states, as majority shareholders in the fund, could have turned down Jordan's request for the loan.

Jordan, whose economic restructuring programme is supervised by the IMF, is getting about \$217 million from the IMF's extended fund facility spread over three years beginning mid-1994 after the executive board of the international body approved a Jordanian request for an additional \$26 million.

The approval was seen as a reflection of the IMF's satisfaction with Jordan's adherence to the economic restructuring programme and confidence in the performance of the Kingdom's economy.

Indicators for the first six months of 1994 show that Jordan had in fact ex-



Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi

ceeded the expectations and projections in the programme in terms of inflation and exports, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said last month.

Mr. Gammoh is leading the Jordanian delegation to the IMF/World Bank meetings in Madrid, where he is also expected to lobby his counterparts from the Paris Club group of creditor governments to extend debt relief to Jordan.

JVA contracts foreign firm to supervise raising of King Talal Dam retaining walls

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Wednesday awarded a JD \$80,000 contract to a foreign engineering consultancy firm to supervise the work of raising the retaining walls of the Kafrein Dam in the Jordan Valley, a project which is to be financed through a loan from the European Investment Bank.

The plan entails raising to 37 metres from 30 metres the height of the walls to increase the dam's storage capacity by 4.6 million cubic metres, (MCM), said a statement following the signing ceremony at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The statement said the total cost of the work is estimated at JD 10 million, adding that the project would have a high economic yield since it would make available large amounts of collected rainfall for irrigation.

Built in 1968 with an initial storage capacity of 4.8 million mcm, the dam's capacity was reduced gradually to about 2.5 mcm because of the accumulation of silt.

The statement said that the raising of the retaining walls would increase the reservoir's capacity to at least 7.1 mcm.

Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Secretary General Hashem Shboul signed the contract with a representative



Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Hashem Shboul (third left) Wednesday signs a contract awarding a foreign engineering consultancy firm the supervisory role in the raising of the King Talal Dam retaining walls (Petra photo)

visory role in the raising of the King Talal Dam retaining walls (Petra photo)

of the foreign firm in Amman.

Study of King Talal Dam reviewed

Also Wednesday the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) held a meeting with a visiting team representing the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada to review the result of a three-year study on the social, economic and environmental situation around the King

Talal Dam, the largest in the Kingdom.

Samir Abu Ajweh, RSS acting president said that the study was one of the fruits of more than a decade of cooperation between the RSS and IDRC.

He told the Jordan Times that IDRC, which has financed this study, had earlier financed several research projects mainly related to environmental, economic and

social issues.

Mr. Ajweh said the study focuses on the environment around the King Talal Dam.

The study, he explained, deals with four areas of interest: economic, demographic and social issues within the King Talal Dam area and the area's needs of water and the development of lands; the prospect of setting up fish ponds near the dam; the prospect of creating a

recreational zone near the dam to attract tourists and visitors; and the sources of pollution to the dam.

Mr. Ajweh said recommendations resulting from the study will be referred to the concerned authorities for appropriate decisions.

Specialists from various government institutions, universities and the private sector were present at the meeting.

Amman starts construction of new pedestrian tunnel

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality announced Wednesday that it has completed the digging for an underground tunnel opposite the Housing Bank Centre and was starting construction of the interior of the pedestrian passage way.

The construction is expected to be completed in 30 days and it will cost about JD68,000, said Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abadi.

Dr. Abadi said the Housing Bank has donated JD30,000 towards financing the project which, he said, was essential at this busy commercial area because

there have been numerous road accidents.

He added that the Shmeisani area where the 20-metre-long tunnel is being built would experience heavy traffic congestion during the next 30 days because of the required detours.

The Shmeisani tunnel is the second major project undertaken by the Amman Municipality this year.

The first was Al Rawdah traffic tunnel on the University of Jordan Road near Al Rai Arabic daily building which was completed in August following 60 days of work.

THE VISIT OF PAKISTAN TRADE DELEGATION TO JORDAN — 7-11 OCT. 1994

A Pakistani Trade Delegation will be visiting Jordan from October 7-11, 1994. Members of the delegation are interested to meet Jordanian businessmen/ industrialists to discuss possibilities of joint ventures and expansion of bilateral trade.

The delegation members deal in:

Rice, textile, transformers oils carbon black & specialty asphalt, sugar mills, components
Interested parties may please contact Mr. Shaikat Ali Mukadam, Head of Chancery/ Mrs. Fifi Najem, Secretary on telephone No. 622787, 638352, 624680. A meeting has also been arranged by the Federation of Chamber of Commerce in their office at Shmeisani at 10:00 on 8th October, 1994.

unicef

United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund, seeks qualified Jordanian candidates for the following position:

Assistant Project Officer/IRM
NOB Level

Duty Station: Amman, Jordan

Under the direct supervision of the Information Resources Management Officer, the Asst. Project Officer/IRM is responsible for assisting in formulating and implementing an office plan for information resources management in order to maintain and provide efficient computer information systems and services and to improve work effectiveness and productivity, consistent with the goals, objectives and strategy for the office and the organization. The Asst. Project Officer will also administer the office multi-user computer network, data and telecommunication facilities.

Minimum Qualifications:

University Degree in Information Management, with specialized training in computer science and practical applications of software, database, network, telecommunications and systems development. Knowledge of and experience in UNIX and Novell LAN administration and in computer-based communication.

Minimum five years of practical work experience at professional levels in support of office computerization.

Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference NO/94-01 to:

Asst. Admin/Personnel Officer
UNICEF Regional Office
P. O. Box 811721,
11181 Amman - Jordan

Applications for this position must be received not later than 20 October 1994.

Acknowledgment will only be sent to short-listed candidates under serious consideration.

UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

Spanish film entitled "La Bandera Negra" at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (Tel. 610858).

Film entitled "Little Shop of Horrors" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (88 minutes).

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of abstract art by Amer Fatuhi at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) (Tel. 610858).

Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfall Art Gallery, Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

Oriental pieces exhibition at Gallery Mariam (Tel. 824425).

Ceramics exhibition by Hameed Abdul Majeed at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Two exhibitions of abstract art by Ramzi Al Sayid and Mohammad Salim at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Fourth Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 650601).

Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).

Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boulata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

"The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

48, linked to Canadian cult, found dead in Switzerland

CHERY, Switzerland (R) — At least 48 people, some with bullet wounds to the head and reportedly linked to a Canadian-based religious sect, were found dead Wednesday after fires in two Swiss villages, police said.

Twenty-three bodies, some clad in red and black cloaks, were discovered at 5 a.m. (0400 GMT) in the cellar of a burned-out farmhouse near Chery, west of the city of Fribourg. Magistrate Andre Biller told a news conference.

In a main room of the farmhouse, police found the body of the Swiss owner, 70-year-old Alberto Giacchino, shot through the head. Traces of blood led them to the cellar, Mr. Biller said.

Almost simultaneously, some 160 kilometres to the south in the mountain hamlet of Granges-Sur-Salvan near the Italian border police found 25 bodies in the ruins of two burning chalets. First reports said they met their

deaths as they slept.

"There are signs that these people were linked with a religious cult," Mr. Biller said. The farmhouse bodies had been laid out in rows and a makeshift altar stood nearby.

Shaken residents of Chery, a picture postcard community amid rolling countryside in French-speaking western Switzerland, told reporters they had seen people coming and going to the isolated farm but had no idea what they had been doing.

Mr. Biller said identity documents found on 15 of the Chery bodies, some with plastic bags around their heads, identified the dead as Swiss, French and Canadian citizens.

At Granges-Sur-Salvan, near the town of Martigny in the heart of a popular Swiss ski area, firemen found 15 bodies in one burned-out chalet and two in another

alongside, a local police spokesman said.

Firemen had not yet been able to search the smoking wreckage of a third chalet and it was feared there could be several more bodies inside, according to the spokesman. Swiss Radio said children were believed to be among the dead.

Police said there was little doubt the two tragedies were linked. A car belonging to a resident of Chery was found near the burning chalets at Granges-Sur-Salvan, set among picturesque Alpine hillside vineyards.

Swiss Television said the farm at Chery had been bought by a sect known as the "Order Of The Solar Temple." The television linked the incidents with the burning of two houses at Morin Heights in Quebec in which two people died Tuesday.

Police said the burned-out chalets in Granges-Sur-

Salvan belonged to a Canadian citizen of Swiss origin named Luc Joutet. Mr. Joutet is listed in the local telephone directory as a doctor, and Swiss Television said he was a homeopath.

In Toronto, the Canadian Press news agency said one of the homes in Morin Heights belonged to Mr. Joutet. It quoted police as saying he was the founder of the Temple sect, which advocated stockpiling weapons "to prepare for the end of the world."

The sect made headlines in Canada last year when two of its members were arrested and charged with weapons offences.

Police at the time issued a warrant for Mr. Joutet, who Canadian Press said was believed to have fled to Switzerland. It said he had been found guilty in July 1993 of possession of weapons and conspiracy but was fined and given a conditional discharge.



Police inspect the gun used by a young couple during a high-speed deadly car chase through eastern Paris late Tuesday, three officers and a taxi driver were killed and six people injured in the chase. The incident, said by one officer to be unprecedented for its horror and carnage, left police authorities outraged and prompted a silent motorcade by 200-300 taxi drivers to protest the loss of their colleagues (AFP photo)

4 killed, 6 injured in Paris shootout

PARIS (AFP) — Paris police were in uproar Wednesday after three of their colleagues and a taxi driver were killed in a high-speed car chase and series of shootouts, sparking calls for a clampdown on U.S.-style violence.

The incident — said by one officer to be unprecedented for its horror and carnage — left police authorities outraged and prompted a silent motorcade by 200-300 taxi drivers to protest the loss of their colleagues.

"We have to ask ourselves how such blind and savage violence can come about," said Daniel Lavau, head of the largest French police union FASP, even as full details of the overnight massacre emerged.

"Personally I think we are slipping little by little towards an American-style society, that we are following in the footsteps of Chicago or Los Angeles," he said.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua went to the scene overnight and later held an emergency meeting with senior officers at Paris Police Headquarters. The head of Paris police called the killings "odious."

The killings happened in an eastern suburb of Paris late Tuesday, after a young couple commandeered a taxi, then another vehicle, before finally being apprehended in woods outside the city. Six people were also wounded.

The couple were in custody Wednesday, the man in hospital with bullet wounds in his stomach and thigh. His female accomplice was described by police as "stunned and drained." Police said they were known to authorities.

The whole incident started when the couple, wearing masks and equipped with tear gas, broke into a police car.

pound on the outskirts of central Paris before two guards and making off with their weapons.

The couple subsequently took a taxi driver, identified as a Ghanaian national, and his client hostage and demanded to be driven to the Place De La Nation.

There, in an apparent attempt to foil his abductors, the taxi driver rammed his car into a police vehicle carrying three officers.

When two of the policemen got out, they were shot immediately by the man and the woman, according to the police. One of the officers died instantly, the other succumbed moments later.

The taxi driver was killed in a shoot-out that erupted when the third policeman got out of the van. The officer and two passers-by were wounded in the confrontation.

Azeri premier denies coup bid; tension remains high

BAKU (R) — Azerbaijan's prime minister laughed off allegations by President Heydar Aliyev Wednesday that he was trying to grab supreme power, as government forces reported they had seized back a key airport from rebels.

"I am not taking part in any coup. I want to have a cup of tea. I didn't go anywhere," rebel-turned-Premier Surat Huseynov said in the capital, Baku, after days of armed disturbances both there and in Gyandzha, the country's second biggest city.

Mr. Aliyev, who clamped a state of emergency on his nation Monday, said in a dramatic televised address to the nation early Wednesday that "dark forces" backed by

pro-Huseynov troops had seized the airport and other strategic buildings in Gyandzha.

Looking tense and tired, he said Mr. Huseynov had "disappeared."

But, shortly after a second emotional speech by Mr. Aliyev outside the presidential palace, Mr. Huseynov called his own early morning news conference. In his central Baku offices to announce he was not behind any coup attempt.

An Interior Ministry official said later that interior troops had retaken Gyandzha Airport and other buildings there from rebels at 7 a.m. (0300 GMT). He had no word on casualties.

Gyandzha, 300 kilometres northwest of Baku, is Mr.

Huseynov's power base. In 1993, the young millionaire turned his private army against Azerbaijan's then leader, Abulfaz Elchibey, and toppled him within weeks.

Mr. Huseynov became premier in an uneasy power-sharing deal with Mr. Aliyev, a former Soviet politician, member and KGB general who returned to power as president after Mr. Elchibey's ouster. Both were closer to Moscow than Mr. Elchibey, a pro-Turkish nationalist.

But a rift between Mr. Huseynov and Mr. Aliyev has widened since then and observers have said a showdown was imminent.

Mr. Aliyev warned that a coup threat was again coming from Gyandzha and perhaps from Russia further north.

"In Gyandzha there are those forces, from abroad and within, who have exploited the difficult situation in the country. They are trying to engineer a coup d'etat," he said.

Up to 10,000 Azeris massed outside the Soviet-era presidential palace in central Baku to hear the second address by the 71-year-old Aliyev.

Many held Azeri flags and portraits of Mr. Aliyev who proclaimed a 60-day state of emergency Monday.

Mr. Huseynov, 36, insisted he still supports Mr. Aliyev. He said "independent groups" in Gyandzha had "risen up." He accused authorities there of corruption, while denying he was behind it.

Patten vows closer Hong Kong cooperation with China

HONG KONG (AFP) — Governor Chris Patten pledged Wednesday to work more closely with China during the final 1,000 days of British rule in Hong Kong, but he repudiated Beijing that cooperation was a two-way street.

In his annual policy address to the colony's Legislative Council, Mr. Patten said he would go so far as to give "every possible support" to Hong Kong's post-1997 governor, once he or she is appointed by Beijing.

He also pledged "full cooperation" between British and Chinese military officials in the run-up to the July 1, 1997 handover, and "immediate and practical help" to a Beijing committee to be set up in 1996 to oversee the historic change of sovereignty.

But Mr. Patten, responsible for winding up more than 150 years of British rule in the last major jewel of the empire, reminded Beijing once again that it must work harder to clear away a growing backlog of transitional

issues, include efforts by Britain to extend elective democracy in the territory's political institutions prior to 1997. "We will do everything that is honourable and sensible to cooperate with China for the remaining 1,000 days of British rule," he said.

"Cooperation, however, is not a one-way street, nor is sincerity to be judged by whether one party always agreed with another," he said.

While there was no immediate reaction from

Chinese officials, Mr. Patten told a press conference that he was looking forward to "a sincere and cooperative response" to his "sensible" proposals.

But some legislators wondered aloud how successful Mr. Patten's plea for cooperation would be.

"Whether he will succeed or not is of course entirely now for the Chinese government to decide," said Martin Lee, leader of Hong Kong's most popular political group, the Democratic Party.

Princess and the major — a tale of a treason?

LONDON (Agencies) — To the establishment he's a cad and a scoundrel, but if the story of a love affair with Princess Diana is true he's a traitor under the law and — technically at least — could face execution.

While Maj. James Hewitt ducked the verbal brickbats Tuesday, sales of a book alleging a five-year affair with the princess appeared to taper off and high society wondered where traditional codes of honour have gone.

"He has gone too far and I think other officers will be disinclined to have anything to do with him," said Bob Higson, a spokesman for the prestigious life guards, Hewitt's former regiment.

Princess In Love, a floridly written work by freelance journalist Anna Pasternak, shows Maj. Hewitt to be "a fully-fledged cad," wrote Niall Ferguson, a fellow in modern history at Oxford University's Jesus College Oxford, in the Daily Telegraph.

But it also symbolised "the creeping corruption of our — supposedly — elite institutions," he wrote.

"If even the (armed) services and the professions can no longer be depended on to instill a sense of decorum, then the legacy of the Victorians has gone forever," he added.

The book, published by Bloomsbury, alleges Maj. Hewitt first made love to Diana in 1986 when she invited him to dinner at Kensington Palace while her husband Prince Charles was away. The affair allegedly ended in 1991.

Prince Charles, 45, and Princess Diana, 33, formally separated in December 1992. In June, Prince Charles acknowledged committing adultery but he did not name the woman.

Bookstores have bought out the first print run of 75,000 copies of Ms. Pasternak's book, ordered more than 25,000 more, and sold thousands of them — at £14.99 (\$23) each — in the first two days of sale. W.H.



Princess Diana arrives at Kensington Palace where she attended the launch of the East African Odyssey Exhibit by the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (AFP photo)

Smith, the country's biggest bookstore chain said it has sold most of its 15,000 volumes but that demand was dying down.

David Hooper, manager of a London branch of Waterstone's, said sales were hot Monday, but not Tuesday. "A lot of people are coming in to flick through the pictures and to get a feel of the writing style — but then they are throwing the book down in disgust," Mr. Hooper wrote.

The author said she wrote the book from conversations with Maj. Hewitt. Some news reports said he has gone into self-imposed exile, possibly somewhere in South America. Prince Charles was reported to be fishing in Scotland.

The Sun quoted unidentified "friends" of the princess as saying she was "flabbergasted and shocked" by Maj. Hewitt's betrayal. The Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph quoted other friends — similarly unidentified — saying she denied a sexual affair.

But the princess showed no signs of tension at a public engagement Tuesday — the London launch of an army expedition to East Africa to

Reportedly unemployed since he was laid off by the army in March, Maj. Hewitt now is also finished socially.

In the upper-class world he frequented, "a gentleman's word is his bond," wrote romance novelist Dame Barbara Cartland. Princess Diana's former step-grandmother, in the tabloid Today. She indicated that Maj. Hewitt will find society drawing rooms and clubs closed to him.

Constitutionally, the book has "no significance whatsoever," according to constitutional expert Lord St. John of Fawley.

"If a divorce was agreed... it would not affect the prince's rights of succession to the throne and might put an end to these appalling invasions into the privacy of the prince and princess," he told Press Association, the British news agency.

Another book

Meanwhile, the Princess of Wales faces fresh claims about her private life in another book due out soon, according to the Daily Express Wednesday.

The book by royal author Andrew Morton is understood to name a married man who is "now the central figure in her life," said the paper.

It added that she had turned to him for comfort and support amid the furore over Princess In Love.

The pair were said to be in constant contact by phone but were unable to meet often because of the threat of being seen in public.

Yet another volume featuring the turbulent marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, this time by respected journalist Jonathan Dimbleby, is thought to be due for publication within weeks.

It was on a television documentary by Mr. Dimbleby earlier this year that Prince Charles, who is heir to the British throne, confessed he had been unfaithful to his wife once it had become clear their marriage had irretrievably broken down.

France woos Japanese emperor

France's political leaders revelled in the warmth of their ties with Japan on the second day of an exceptionally high-profile visit by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. As Emperor Akihito met Premier Edouard Balladur and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, the French government continued the groundwork set by President Francois Mitterrand in praising their Japanese counterparts. Mr. Balladur said the two countries had "not only on a mutual admiration for traditions and cultures," but also saw eye to eye on "democratic values and a shared desire to work towards world stability and economic progress." Mr. Chirac, a former French premier, meanwhile talked of the "good relations" between France and Japan, saying: "Given the numerous

subjects on which we share a common interest, we should talk more." Emperor Akihito met former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing Wednesday and told him how much France has changed since his last visit here in 1953. The emperor, on the third day of a state visit to France, said in particular how much he was impressed by developments in French culture, as well as the French way of life, the former president told AFP. The photograph shows Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko (centre) stand on the steps of the Hotel Matignon, the prime minister's office, where they were hosted Prime Minister Balladur (right) and his wife Marie-José (left) (AFP photo)

French anti-European names new party

PARIS (AFP) — Maverick politician Philippe De Villiers, who made a strong showing in June Euro-polls on a radical anti-European ticket, Wednesday named a new party which he aims to make a key force in French politics.

Mr. De Villiers, who took a stunning 12 per cent in the European polls in June, named the new party, as the "Movement For France." He has vowed to make the "third force" in the French right-wing coalition of Premier Edouard Balladur.

He told French radio that the new party would be established on Nov. 20, six months ahead of the presidential elections next April and May.

The right-wing aristocrat turned politician vowed to launch a new party after resigning last month from the Republican Party (PR), the scandal hit key element in the government, accusing it of being corruption-ridden.

French judicial officials have since opened a formal investigation into the financing of the party, whose leader Industry Minister Gerard Longuet is also facing a probe into alleged corruption involving a Saint Tropez villa.

Mr. De Villiers said last month that he could stand in

next year's elections against President Francois Mitterrand, if his ideas are not represented by any other candidates.

The nobleman scored a stunning victory in June Euro-elections along with Anglo-French millionaire Sir Jimmy Goldsmith at the head of a list called "Ruling Majority for an Alternative Europe."

Mr. De Villiers and Mr. Goldsmith only entered the race for the Euro elections at the start of the year, but pushed their support up by campaigning on a ticket notably vehement in its opposition to the Maastricht Treaty.

Officials said the cost of subsidising agriculture in a bigger EU, along with security issues, were problem areas to be dealt with in separate reports to be written by the EU Executive Commission.

The Commission will also produce, sometime in 1995, a report on how to mesh the economies of the East Europeans into that of the EU.

These will not be

decision-making meetings. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told reporters.

EU Foreign Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan said the countries of Eastern Europe "need to know what they have to do" to comply with EU laws and regulations.

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Japan largest user of robots

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan remains the world's largest user of industrial robots despite the recession, according to a United Nations report, the Kyodo News Agency reported. Japan is also enjoys the highest number of robots per worker in the industrial sector, with 325 robots for every 10,000. Singapore has the second highest ratio with 109 robots per 10,000 workers, according to the report, issued by the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe. In 1993, more than half of all robots used in the world were in Japan, accounting for 368,000 out of 610,000 on the planet. Japanese supremacy in this sector nevertheless gradually crumbled in 1993 because of the recession. The total number of Japanese robots in industry rose five per cent last year, the average global increase being six per cent.

Bird pictures in million-dollar sale

LONDON (AP) — A total of 232 original Victorian watercolours painted for John Gould's book The Birds Of Great Britain sold for £1,029,595 (\$1.6 million) at a Christie's auction. Gould, an artist-naturalist, is Britain's equivalent of America's John James Audubon, whose Birds Of America issued from 1827 to 1838 is the world's most expensive bird book. Gould's The Birds Of Great Britain is held by critics to be the finest British bird book ever produced.

The highest prices in the Gould sale were paid for the larger birds which are most striking in appearance, especially the predators. A snowy owl watercolour sold for £34,500 (\$54,164), a capercaillie for £16,100 (\$25,277) and a peregrine falcon for £11,500 (\$18,055). All three were painted by Joseph Wolf, a German who is judged by art critics to be the best of Gould's three artists. The other two were Henry Richter, who was of German origin, and William Hart, who was English. No buyers were identified. The 232 watercolours on offer were sold by a British couple who inherited them from the daughters of an original subscriber to The Birds Of Great Britain, Frederick Du Cane Godman, himself a naturalist who knew Gould. "This was the largest group of Gould watercolours to come to strength of the bidding," said Andrew Clayton-Payne of Christie's. "The prices for wolf were the highest because he is the best known. English, dealers and collectors made up most of the bidders and there was telephone buying from institutions and collectors, especially Americans," he said.

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New tremors shake Japanese city hit by quake

KUSHIRO, Japan (R) — New tremors shook this northern Japanese port Wednesday as exhausted workers cleaned up after an undersea earthquake which killed nine people on nearby Russian islands and injured hundreds here.

Tuesday night's massive quake, measuring 7.9 on the open-ended Richter Scale, killed at least nine people in the Russian-held Kurile Islands and injured more than 200 on Japan's northern Hokkaido Island.

It set off up to two metre (six foot) high tidal waves which raced across the Pacific, lashing the eastern Hokkaido coast and even Hawaii and Central American countries like El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The epicentre was in the Pacific Ocean off Shikotan Island in the southern Kuriles, about 165 miles (260 kilometres) east of Kushiro, a 200,000-population fishing port.

Nearly 50 aftershocks, some as high as 7.0 on the Richter Scale, were felt in the 12 hours after the first quake which erupted about 10 miles (15 kilometres) under the sea.

Japan put aside a territorial dispute with Russia over the Kurile Islands to offer Moscow humanitarian aid.

Hokkaido police said 206 people were treated in hospitals for injuries, many from falling objects inside homes and buildings and broken glass.

In the Kuriles, nine people were killed according to an official at the emergency situations ministry in Moscow.

Homes and hospitals on Iturup and Kunashir, the most heavily populated islands in the chain, were damaged, he said. ITAR-TASS agency said eight of those killed were soldiers stationed on the Russian-held islands claimed by Japan.

The islands, called Southern Kuriles by Moscow and the Northern Territories by Tokyo, were seized by the advancing Soviet army in the last days of World War II and Japan has demanded their return.

In Kushiro Wednesday, residents counted themselves lucky that the quake, described by U.S. seismologists



Cars fallen in a crack on a road in Nemuro, in Japan's northern Hokkaido Prefecture near the epicentre of a strong earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale which struck on Tuesday.

as the "first great quake of 1994," did not cause more damage.

It caused gashes up to two metres deep and 10 to 20 cm wide in roads, bringing traffic to a halt in many parts of Hokkaido. Bridges were also damaged and trains ran at reduced speed.

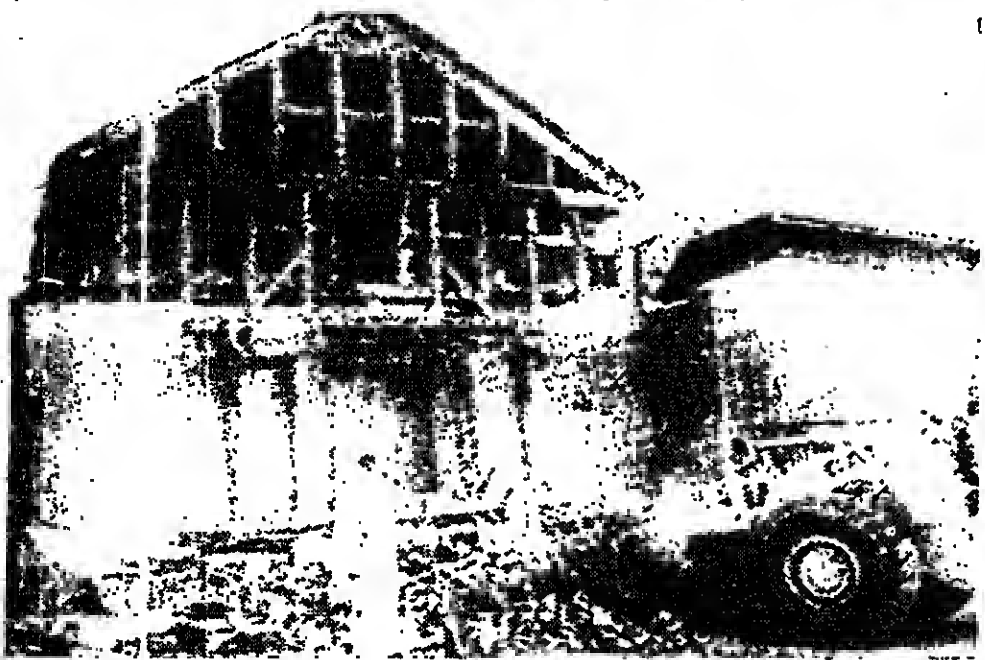
"It will be difficult for key parts of the port to function," said Kushiro City Hall spokesman Seiki Watanabe.

At nearby Nemuro, churning waters from the tidal waves, heaved up three one-tonne fishing boats on to a dock and 270 homes were flooded.

Thousands of people ordered inland from coastal areas most exposed to the tidal waves, started trickling back to their homes, finding many of them waterlogged.

Kushiro residents said their familiarity with earthquakes — the area is one of the most active in the world — cut down damage and loss of life.

Just last January Kushiro, the main city of eastern Hokkaido, was shaken by a 7.8 tremor.



A worker watches a bulldozer cleaning debris from a road after a strong earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter Scale hit this area of northern Japan (AFP photo)

Demonstration in Zairean town halves relief work

30MA, Zaire (R) — Zairean youths demonstrated and hijacked cadres in the eastern town of Goma Wednesday, bringing the hub of relief work for 800,000 Rwandan refugees to a halt.

The trouble erupted shortly after U.N. officials said international aid workers who fled Katala refugee camp Friday because of threats and violence by militia thugs would return Wednesday.

Witnesses said hundreds of angry Zairean youths demonstrated outside Goma Cathedral against what they said was the killing of a prominent businessman by Zairean troops Tuesday night.

Aid workers said scores of youths seized at least one and possibly three aid agency vehicles in Goma centre, triggering a security alert by aid agencies stopping staff moving in the town for hours.

A federation car was hijacked on President Mobutu Avenue a few metres from

the office by a group of young men who pretended they wanted it for a funeral," said France Hurisse of the Red Cross.

The official with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said the delegate in the car had been allowed out and had returned safely to the office.

"We believe two other NGO (non-governmental organisation) cars have been hijacked so there is a security alert and no aid workers are allowed to move around inside Goma," Mr. Hurisse added.

An estimated one million Rwandan refugees who flooded into Goma in July have increased tensions between local residents and corrupt and ill-disciplined Zairean troops who routinely demand bribes.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Lyndall Sachs said earlier a few aid workers would go back to Katala

camp, 50 kilometres north of Goma.

International aid workers pulled out of Katala Friday after militia gangs seized control of the camp with 270,000 residents and death threats were made against seven expatriates.

"We are basically testing the goodwill of the refugees and their commitment. Depending on how things go, we will progressively increase staffing in the camp," Ms. Sachs said.

"If the situation deteriorates again of course we will immediately pull out," she warned, adding that the seven aid workers said to be on a death list had decided against returning.

She said camp leaders agreed Tuesday to a list of demands by the aid agencies to improve security before they returned.

Four demands to avoid violence in future included an investigation into the slaying of a Rwandan Scout leader in

Katala last Thursday and the threats made against aid workers.

Refugees will not be allowed to carry machetes on roads, distribution points and in public places in the camps and the main road at Katala will be cleared of people and market stalls.

Asked how the ban on machetes would be enforced, Ms. Sachs said generally agencies relied on the "good faith of the refugees" but a few Zairean Gendarmes would be on duty for some days.

She said Zairean authorities were still investigating a report from a Belgian resident of Goma that about 30 Rwandan Boy Scouts were massacred in Katala last Thursday by militia gangs.

"There are an awful lot of rumours flying around but of course we are taking it seriously," she said of the report from Jean Wauters De Bessfeld, regional head of the Zairean Scout Movement.

Search to start for sunken ferry's lost bow door

HELSINKI (R) — Two vessels sailed Wednesday to begin a seabed hunt for the bow door of the ferry Estonia which sheared off as the ship went down in heavy Baltic seas a week ago with the loss of more than 900 lives.

The search boats, one each from Finland and Estonia, were equipped with sidescan sonars — sophisticated echosounding devices of the type used to locate the main wreck in about 80 metres of water later Friday.

Heimo Iivonen, a Finnish member of the three-nation board of inquiry which is looking into the cause of the disaster, said the vessels were due at the spot where the Estonia sank last Wednesday.

"I hope they will do it (find the 60-tonne bow door) today... I think it is pretty near the wreck," he told Reuters by telephone. If a likely object is detected, it will be verified by underwater cameras and then salvaged, he added.

There are lots of ships and ship parts around that area," Mr. Heimonen said in a reference to the treacherous, current-swept place where the Estonia went down which is known as the "ships' graveyard." Many wrecks litter the seabed there.

Exports say finding the bow door would help to establish any Estonia suddenly sank early on Sept. 28 about 50 kilometres south-southeast of Utoe Island off



A worker welds to seal the front door of the ferry "Mariella" of the Viking Company. Such measures have been taken after preliminary findings had indicated that the "Estonia" ferry disaster was caused by the breaking off of the front cargo door during a storm after the locks failed (AFP photo)

southwestern Finland.

Of the more than 1,000 people aboard, more than 800 bodies are believed to be entombed in the wreckage. Ninety-three bodies have been recovered and only 137 people survived one of the worst maritime disasters this century.

No decision has yet been made on salvaging the wreck. A vessel owned by the Norwegian company Stolt Cumex Seaway, specialist in underwater operations, was standing by at the southern port of Hanko, the Finnish News Agency (STT) reported.

Company official Leif Wallin said the company had conducted negotiations with authorities but had not yet received any assignment in connection with the sunken ferry.

The company said it has the expertise to recover the victims inside the ship and also to salvage the Estonia. Separately, maritime authorities from Finland and Sweden were due to meet in Helsinki Wednesday to discuss the disaster. No details of the session were immediately available.

The board of inquiry, with members from Estonia, Fin-

land and Sweden, has said it is certain that water rushing on to the ferry's car deck caused it to lose stability and sink.

Video of the wreck, released earlier this week, shows that the door, or visor, which is supposed to swing up in port to let vehicles on and off the ship, is missing.

Investigators said a locking device on the moveable outer bow door had failed, but they could not yet say why.

An inner ramp had, after being battered by stormy seas, let water flood onto the ship's car deck, the board said.

Deputies criticise Yeltsin at stormy parliament opening

MOSCOW (AFP) — Parliament's lower house or Duma opened what promised to be a stormy session Wednesday amid general hostility to President Boris Yeltsin and the government, with a vote of no confidence on the cards.

Communist Deputy Viktor Ilyukhin went so far as to launch a personal attack on Mr. Yeltsin, referring to the president's "illness of alcoholism" and to his being unwell during the return leg of his recent trip to the United States.

Mr. Ilyukhin repeated a proposal made by him in the past to create "a committee to examine the president's state of health" and said he was "visibly incapable of governing."

Earlier Mr. Yeltsin, whose government could face a vote of no confidence in parliament, sent a conciliatory message to lower house deputies opening the session on the government's economic reforms.

Mr. Yeltsin's letter, read by speaker Ivan Rybkin, urged them to work and said Mr. Yeltsin was delighted that "the pessimistic forecasts of the start of the year that it would be impossible for the

legislative and executive powers to collaborate normally did not prove true."

"I am always ready to cooperate with the deputies," Mr. Yeltsin's message said. Mr. Rybkin said in his opening remarks that the "government is not ideal and we have not as yet seen a definite change in the economy," struggling under the transition from a communist to a free-market system.

But Vyacheslav Marychev, a member of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, criticised Mr. Yeltsin for sending a letter to the deputies instead of "coming before (them) in person as he should have done."

Russian Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov compared the situation to "that in 1917. The president no longer governs, the government is out of control and the parliament is incapable of carrying out its own decisions," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said Tuesday he might allow Communist Party members into the Russian government.

Some 315 deputies were on hand for the opening session of the Duma, following the

summer recess, well past the 225 needed for a quorum.

According to sources close to parliament the deputies could decide to hold a vote of no confidence in the government for what critics feel is its failure to tackle the economic crisis. The report said this was likely to happen in the first few days of the session when implementation of the government's programme of economic reforms comes under discussion.

The Duma, elected in December 1993, has a total 450 seats. The biggest single group is the reformist bloc Russia's Choice, with 96 seats.

Though the opposition does not have an absolute majority in parliament it makes up a forceful minority that the sources said might get backing from some centrist and reformist deputies also unhappy with economic reforms.

The autumn session will also work out details on several other legislative texts, notably a penal code and a fiscal code.

Critics are blaming the government for the crisis in agriculture — a poor harvest

despite heavy subsidies, which the powerful agrarian lobby nevertheless considers inadequate — for the fall of the ruble in recent months, and for the shortfall in deliveries of essential supplies to the northern territories (in the Arctic Circle), which are traditionally in difficulty.

Mr. Yeltsin also faces tense debate on framing the legislation needed to bring the functioning of the institutions of state (parliament, government, presidency) into line with the Russian constitution adopted last December.

The division of power of the different bodies, which was modified by the new constitution, has not yet been enshrined in well-defined laws.

The Council of the Federation, the upper house of parliament, also comes back from its recess Wednesday. It is expected to debate the division of powers between the 89 territorial entities of the federation and the centre.

The question is all the more sensitive now because of the separatist conflict in Chechnya and tension running high in other parts of the northern Caucasus including between Ossetia and neighbouring Ingushetia.

Berlusconi faces serious crisis

ROME (AP) — Premier Silvio Berlusconi's clash with anti-corruption prosecutors deepened Wednesday with the resignation of the justice minister and suggestions that probes could be moving to target the media magnate.

The resignation of Alfredo Biondi was linked to a published interview by one of the prosecutors investigating Mr. Berlusconi's media holdings. The prosecutor criticised Mr. Biondi for his settlement speculating whether the prosecutors were guide political motives.

The government rejected Mr. Biondi's resignation. But it was unclear whether Mr. Biondi would demand to step down and become the first member to leave the 5-month-old cabinet.

Mr. Berlusconi has become increasingly critical of Milan-based prosecutors leading the probes into political corruption and other abuses.

Mr. Berlusconi's media and retail company, Fininvest SPA, has been implicated in investigations into kickbacks paid to government tax auditors in return for favourable reports. Investigators also have begun scrutinizing Fininvest's stake in a pay-television service to see if it companies were used to give Fininvest more than its legal maximum 10 per cent ownership.

Mr. Berlusconi could place his broadcasting licence in jeopardy if irregularities are found in the ownership of Telepiu, the pay-TV channel.

In an interview published Wednesday, Mr. Berlusconi implied that his media holding company, Fininvest SPA, has been singled out by judges.

"I believe that there is a real hatred in their confrontations with a single industrial group."

There have been rumours that Berlusconi could himself become a target of a probe.

The Milan Stock Market was already nervous over the rumours and Mr. Biondi's announcement sent stocks plunging. The lira also fell against major currencies.

In the interview with Corriere Della Sera, prosecutor Saverio Borrelli said the probe into Telepiu could reach "very high financial and political levels."

He also criticised Mr. Biondi for statements questioning the motives behind the media probe.

The resignation came as Mr. Berlusconi's coalition faced a major clash with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who has objected that he failed to be sufficiently consulted on the government's austerity budget.

A government spokesman said Mr. Berlusconi was "satisfied with the outcome" of his meeting Wednesday with Mr. Scalfaro, but there was no other details given.

The prospect for more government turmoil has financial traders predicting a slump for the lira, which has risen and fallen along with the fortunes of the Berlusconi government.

Mandela invites Clinton to S. Africa

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela toasted U.S. President Bill Clinton during a state dinner at the White House late Tuesday and invited him on a formal visit to South Africa.

Mr. Mandela stressed the "enduring partnership" between the United States and South Africa, thanked America for helping to end apartheid but warned that the struggle was not over.

At a White House welcoming ceremony, Mr. Mandela pleaded for increased U.S. investment to underpin democratic reforms in his country.

Mr. Clinton toasted Mr. Mandela as "a genuine inspiration to the American people and the freedom-loving people of the world... who still marvel at the price

you paid for your conviction."

Mr. Mandela, 76, was a political prisoner for more than 27 years before becoming president in May.

Accompanied by his daughter, Zinzi Mandela-Hlongwane, Mr. Mandela appeared delighted to meet with several black leaders and personal friends at the dinner, including Coretta Scott King and Nobel Prize-winning South African writer Nadine Gordimer.

Among the nearly 200 guests were Reverend Jesse Jackson, former New York Mayor David Dinkins, singers Harry Belafonte and Whitney Houston, and several prominent businessmen.

It was the first formal state dinner held in the East Room of the White House since

1902, when the Crown Prince of Prussia was the guest of honour.

Mr. Mandela opened his four-day state visit here a day after telling the United Nations General Assembly in New York that the world body must fight poverty with the same determination it directed at apartheid.

Five months after Mr. Mandela took office following South Africa's first multi-racial elections, the country was making slow progress in its drive to develop its economy.

Mr. Clinton, who was expected to announce a package of economic aid for South Africa this week, pledged to Mr. Mandela that the United States "will walk every mile with you and that we will not grow weary on the way."

Meciar to form Slovak government

BRATISLAVA (AFP) — Former Slovakian Premier Vladimir Meciar said Wednesday that his lack of a parliamentary majority raised questions about the effectiveness of the coalition government he had been asked to form.

In his first published comment on his electoral success in an interview published by the daily Slovenska Republika which he partly owns, Mr. Meciar said the elections "did not resolve the polarisation of Slovakia."

Mr. Meciar said the results from the poll Friday and Saturday failed to overcome the political impasse and would result in problems with parliament as his dominant

Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) did not have a parliamentary majority.

Mr. Meciar's party won 61 seats out of the total 150 in parliament, and he noted that by adding the nine seats of the nationalist Slovak National Party (SNS) he could count on the support of 70 deputies — short of an absolute majority.

Mr. Meciar also criticised the proportional electoral system, saying it had caused a "rather deep crisis" and proved its "inefficiency."

The vote also demonstrated that "a type of government with a broad coalition is not viable," he went on.

President Michal Kovac

asked Mr. Meciar, his arch-rival, Tuesday to form a coalition government.

Mr. Meciar said he would seek "stable partners and agreements" in forming a new cabinet.

He indicated that in addition to the SNS he would also approach the radical left Slovak Workers Association as "our platforms are the closest."

Noting the "major defeat" electorally for the ex-communist Democratic Left Party (SDL), which had been in the outgoing coalition government and won 18 seats in the polls, Mr. Meciar said that Slovakia was "confirming its national-democratic path."

India says plague crisis over but more nations impose curbs

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India declared the two-week-long plague crisis nearly over Wednesday, but China and Thailand joined other countries in tightening restrictions on the entry of Indian nationals.

Despite the moves by Beijing and Bangkok, there were indications that the plague-related embargo of India may be easing as Russia's Aeroflot and Air Canada said they may resume regular flights here later this week.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said several Gulf states were also expected to resume flying to India this week.

The Indian government, in a move to make up for losses suffered by its travel industry from the plague outbreak, asked airlines and hotels meanwhile to offer huge discounts in a bid to lure back wary tourists.

In other developments, World Health Organisation Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima was scheduled to arrive here Thursday while Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani postponed his visit to India.

A new date for the Iranian leader's trip has not been fixed, officials said.

Ashish Kumar Mukherjee, India's director-general of health services, Wednesday asserted that the epidemic, which has left 53 people dead, was all but over and ruled out any further risk of contamination.

Madan Lal Khurana said however that crowds will be limited on Oct. 14 during Dusshera — a Hindu festival which draws millions to city parks — as a precaution against the infectious disease.

Mr. Mukherjee said the panic following the outbreak of bubonic plague in the western state of Maharashtra and the more virulent pneumonic variety in adjoining Gujarat stemmed basically from "ignorance and exaggerated reports."

Despite Indian claims that the outbreak is under control, China Wednesday turned back five Indian nationals after they were given a choice between quarantine and returning home, an Indian embassy official said in Beijing.

Thailand tightened immigration laws and stopped issuing visas to Indians in a bid to keep plague out of its territory. The suspension will last until the disease is brought under control, officials said in Bangkok.

Ethiopian Airlines suspended flights to plague-free Bombay situated near Gujarat, where the disease was first diagnosed on Sept. 20.

Aviation Minister Azad said he "regretted" the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) decision to cut off flights to India but said they may be resumed within two or three days.

He added that flag-carrier Air India would also resume flights soon to the Gulf,

where more than one million Indians are employed.

GCC members Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) severed air and sea links with India last week as a preventive measure. The UAE also stopped issuing visas to Indians.

Qatar decided Wednesday to reopen air links with India, the official Qatari News Agency (QNA) said.

But Doha would "only function as a transit airport," a Communications Ministry spokesman told QNA.

All planes in transit would be "subjected to strict measures decided jointly by the Health and Interior Ministries," he added.

In Montreal, an Air Canada spokesman said the airline would probably resume flights to New Delhi this week. He said the airline had begun selling tickets for its four weekly flights.

Indian officials here said the Russian embassy had assured them that Aeroflot would resume flights by Saturday.

Two top Indian health officials were in the Gulf Wednesday trying to persuade health authorities there that the plague epidemic has been contained.

In a related development, New Delhi announced the setting up of a high-level panel to try and control the fallout of the plague outbreak on tourism and trade, and urged the industry to slash tariffs by 50 per cent.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Democracy — a la Israeli

IN CASE someone hasn't heard, there is this piece of interesting news from Cairo, where Israelis and Palestinians this week tried to thrash out an accord on expanding self-rule to the rest of the West Bank. The Israeli negotiators have told their Palestinian interlocutors that the Jewish state would not allow opponents of the autonomy accord to stand as candidates in the proposed elections to a Palestinian self-rule council.

The three conditions placed by the Israelis on candidates to the elections are: Acceptance in principle of the autonomy accord, no harbouring of any desire to destroy Israel and abstention from "racist" propaganda.

The Israeli demands of course are a blatant violation of the principles inherent in the autonomy agreement, which leaves it to the Palestinians to conduct the elections in the best democratic manner possible. In fact, one of the very basic political presumptions that prompted the international community to throw its weight behind the autonomy deal is the conviction that the Palestinian entity that emerges in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be democratic, concerned with human rights and truly representative of the Palestinian people.

Thus the Israeli stand at Cairo can only undermine everything that democracy means: The basic right to adopt political positions, the freedom of thought and belief and the freedom to express opinions.

Indeed, the law has to take its course if the right to freedom of expression is misused and turned in a racist direction by anyone, but that is never a precondition for the right to exercise democratic rights. Besides, in the case, it is also known that the draft Palestinian election law bars parties with racist platforms anyway.

Obviously, Israel is demanding from the Palestinians that every measure be adopted to ensure that the self-rule council would not be "radicalised" even if it means total disregard for the people's right to free choice. Whether a "non-radical" autonomy council would fit in with the programmes of the PLO leadership is not an issue here since that is not the way democracy works.

For decades, we have been reminded by the West, including the media, that the Jewish state had the broadest form of liberal democracy in the Middle East and that was one of the reasons that it enjoyed political sympathies and almost unlimited material support from the Western nations, particularly the United States. Very conveniently overlooked in the bargain, however, are the paradoxes and ironies in the Israeli version of democracy, including the fact Jewish Israelis were more equal in the eye of the Israeli law than the Palestinians and the Israeli Arabs.

The Israelis, in this regard, need not look very far to know that their experiment with outlawing fundamentalist thinking will simply not work.

Here in Jordan, the make-up of our parliament and the existence of political parties here that do not see eye to eye with some of the policies of the leadership are the best supporting evidence.

Even though the platforms adopted by some of the Jordanian parties are dramatically opposed to what the government believes in, Jordan does not believe in eliminating those voices by refusing them the chance to represent themselves as their supporters.

Equal right to seek power through constitutional means and the election process is a basic tenet of democracy. And by trying to stifle the voices of dissent among the Palestinians, Israel will only be fueling the fire.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

CONTRARY to what Western media has been claiming, Iraq does not have any more mass destruction weapons because all that it had was either destroyed in the war or through the U.N. inspection teams, said Ibrahim Al Absi in Al Ra'i. The writer said it was well-known that influential powers at the U.N. Security Council had been preventing any moves to end the embargo on Iraq but it was the duty of the rest of the world community to act immediately and save millions of Iraqis whose lives are in danger, Mr. Absi wrote. He urged the Arab masses to end the sufferings of their Iraqi kinsmen and to act now to lift the sanctions by all possible means. There is no more justification for maintaining the embargo because Iraq has complied with all the U.N. resolutions, and there can be no reason for the Arabs to remain silent as they see their brothers and sisters dying of hunger and disease, stressed the writer. There can be no justification for the Arabs to lift their siege or end their boycott of Israel at a time when they continue to condone the unjust embargo on Iraq, Mr. Absi said.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour reflected on the current battle behind the scenes to elect a speaker for Parliament saying that there were more important issues which should attract the attention of the deputies. Taher Adwan said that while it was the right of deputies to debate the question of the speaker in the coming session but other issues like the developments in the Middle East region, the economy, poverty and unemployment were indeed more important issues requiring more serious attention.

The View from Academia

Teacher supervision — a task taken lightly

By Ahmad Y. Majdoubek

PERIODICALLY, our school system of education ought to be subjected either to fundamental or to cosmetic modifications and changes. One crucial matter which needs serious reconsideration is that of teacher supervision.

The system of supervision works in essentially the following manner. In order to find out whether teachers are doing their job properly or not or whether they are receiving the help they need to carry out their duties to the best of their ability or not, the Ministry Of Education appoints, in addition to the headmaster (who is expected to keep a close eye on everything that goes on in the school), persons it calls supervisors. These are specialists in the various subjects who have had, presumably, an excellent experience in teaching and a first-hand knowledge of the difficulties and problems involved in the teaching of a particular subject. Thus, there is a supervisor for Math, for English, for History, etc.

Supervisors are entrusted with a variety of tasks. Among such tasks are: a) training teachers, both old and new, to teach revised or new curricula, b) consulting with senior/experienced teachers in assessing the already existing curricula, c) providing constant advice and guidance to teachers regarding any specific queries or obstacles which they may encounter in a particular subject, and d) evaluating the performance of teachers in the subjects of their specialty.

The latter is the most prominent. Every academic year, the supervisor visits the teacher once or twice, attends a class of his choosing without warning the teacher beforehand, sits in class and listens attentively as the teacher gives the lesson, asks the students a few questions toward the end of the class about the material that has just been explained to them and about previous material. When the class is over, the supervisor meets with the teacher and tells him what he thinks of his performance and of the performance of the students. The teacher is given ample time to observe and comment. The supervisor, who meets with the headmaster before or after the lesson, then leaves, drafts an evaluation report, and mails it to the school. In it, the

teacher finds a detailed assessment of his performance and a rating on the scale of Excellent, Very Good, Good, and Poor. Such rating, which counts toward promotion, carries 30 per cent of the final weight the remaining 70 per cent of which is determined by the headmaster.

In theory, the system appears quite plausible and valuable. In practice, however, there are many serious flaws and problems with it. I have had the opportunity recently to talk to a large number of teachers and a few supervisors about it. Almost all expressed their extreme dissatisfaction with how it is applied, even though they all admit its potential value.

Following are a few significant reservations and objections.

1. The supervisor meets with the teacher once or twice a year. Clearly, this is not sufficient. How can the supervisor form a solid opinion of the teacher's performance on the basis of one or two brief visits? Taking into account that different students respond to different subjects differently (no two human beings are identical), how is the supervisor expected to help the teacher overcome obstacles and impediments faced by students he has seen once or twice a year? In other words, ought not supervisors to build a relationship with teachers and students to make their job meaningful, and not just symbolic?

They ought to spend more time in the field to get to know the teachers better, to get to know the students better, and to break the ice with both. Teachers, especially those who have more years of experience in teaching than those who are expected to supervise them, can be quite sensitive to criticism and quite uncomfortable about being evaluated. Students can be either confused about the whole matter of supervision or intimidated: for many of them, the time when the supervisor shows up is either a time for show off or a time to be silent and to behave. In a word, supervisors need to understand that their job is not just evaluative but cooperative.

2. Because supervisors are usually pressed for time and because they cannot show up as frequently and constantly

as desired, they tend to rely a little too much on the opinion and assessment of the headmaster. At one level, there is nothing wrong with this. Headmasters spend all of their time in the school and they know the teachers well and, to a lesser degree, the students. However, headmasters are neither infallible nor 100 per cent objective. They have their own biases and prejudices. More importantly, the supervisor is supposed to be an "equal" and a "rival" to the headmaster, not a follower. It is much healthier and much closer to the truth when we have diversity of opinion, multiplicity of perspective, and plurality of positions and stands. If the supervisor is to copy the headmaster's report verbatim, as often happens, what is the use of having him in the first place? The supervisor needs to be independent, needs to assert his own opinion, needs to provide us with another channel through which we can get at the truth. For this, he needs to make his visits more frequent, and to do his homework more diligently. The fact that there is only one supervisor for every 60 teachers is not reassuring. The ministry needs to double, triple, and quadruple their number.

3. It is obvious from talking to teachers and supervisors that many of the latter are not qualified to do the job. More than one teacher insisted that those supervisors who are truly convincing or potentially successful are quite few. One teacher says, "One out of every ten supervisors knows how to do the job right. Most are either careless or incompetent." Part of the problem here is that supervisors are not chosen with care. A good teacher may not necessarily make a good supervisor. This is one. But also not all those desiring to be supervisors (the job is attractive to many) or who can pull strings here and there to get appointed ought to be appointed.

We have to take the business of advising seriously. We have to exercise a great deal of wisdom in choosing supervisors. We complain that our teachers are on the whole not up to the standards, and neither are our headmasters. Should not the supervisors at least be a little more competent and impressive?

New realism among leaders

By Roger Matthews

PROGRESS towards a lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the price of oil are the two most obvious factors likely to influence the performance of Middle East economies in the year ahead. However, neither is susceptible to accurate forecasting, and both can be severely affected by the invariably unpleasant political shocks for which the Middle East has become rightly notorious.

The chain of events set in motion by first, the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in August 1990, and second, by the outline peace accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in September 1993, is still being played out. The Gulf war and the putative Arab-Israeli peace agreement has prompted some Western leaders and their advisers to conclude that the implications of the Soviet Union's departure from the Middle East political equation has finally been understood and has provoked a new realism among leaders in the region.

This argument suggests that the overwhelming superiority of U.S. and Israeli military forces is obvious even to the most militant. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has been cowed, and the radical clerics in Iran have been contained. Col. Muammar Qadhafi of Libya is a shadow of his former provocative self, while Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, is now a welcome guest at the White House, and may be followed, perhaps before too long, by President Hafez Al Assad of Syria.

There is a strong body of opinion within the U.S. State Department that believes the peace process is now irreversible, whatever the short-term difficulties. "The fundamentals for a lasting peace are almost all in place, in large part because the key players have run out of alternatives," said a senior official recently.

The same military expenditure pattern is being repeated in the Gulf where the fears and suspicions created by the eight-year Iraq-Iran conflict and the subsequent Gulf war have only partially subsided. Despite a worsening budget deficit, which this year prompted an attempt to cut official spending by 20 per cent, Saudi Arabia continues to give precedence to strengthening its defences.

The government has been forced to negotiate a slowdown in payments on military aircraft purchases from the U.S. but the overall procurement programme remains largely untouched.

The effects are being most sharply felt by civil contractors and other government suppliers who complain of steadily worsening payments delays. While this may contribute to an apparent narrowing of the budget deficit at the end of the financial year, the warning bells sounded by the IMF in 1993 have not been silenced. The danger of the total government debt rising as a percentage

of gross domestic product from the present level of about 56 per cent to 80 per cent by 1997 has not receded. And in the absence of a sustained rise in the price of oil, a squeeze on commercial banks' liquidity as a result of official borrowing could yet harm the development of the private sector which is supposed to act as the main motor of economic growth.

The widening fiscal gap created by static or falling government revenues, and rising recurrent and capital expenditure, goes to the core of the problem facing the Arab Gulf states. Slowly, governments are being forced to accept that the all-embracing welfare state cannot be financed indefinitely. Deeper cuts will have to be made and issues of taxation addressed. The reluctance of governments to grasp this particular nettle indicates the impact such reforms may have on political stability.

More immediate concerns in the Gulf are focused on Iran and Iraq, and particularly when the U.N. will decide that Baghdad has met the conditions imposed by Security Council resolutions. The consequent resumption of Iraq oil exports has obvious implications for oil prices, and it will also open the door for international companies already seeking business in Iraq. Demands for war reparations and the payment of substantial debt arrears are certain to amount to well over \$150bn and to take many years to resolve.

Iran will be in the forefront of those countries seeking compensation for the damage inflicted during its eight-year war with Iraq. Declining oil war revenues and a ballooning international debt have exacerbated Tehran's reconstruction problems while continued political rivalries have blocked most attempts at introducing market-oriented reforms. Iran continues to be a valuable market for Europe and Japan, but the combination of U.S. hostility and poor economic management suggests that in the absence of significantly higher oil price there is little chance of real growth.

Among the brighter spots in a generally lacklustre Middle East, Morocco and Tunisia stand out as countries which are addressing their structural problems while aiming to promote export-led growth through a closer association with the European Union. But they, too, are forced to keep a wary eye on neighbouring Algeria where the impact of Islam as a political force provides another potent example of the dangers which arise when inept governments fail to tackle the most basic needs of their population. The Financial Times.

Clinton and 'merchant' diplomacy—getting it right

By Thomas L. Friedman in Washington

THE PAST FEW weeks have provided a revealing study in contrasts between the Clinton foreign economic policy and the Clinton foreign security policy. To put it bluntly, Mr. Clinton's foreign economic policy tends to be everything that the rest of his foreign policy is not: The strategy has been fairly consistent, even if the tactics varied; his goals have been generally well-articulated, the payoff for the American public clear-cut, and the passions of the president obviously engaged.

When it came to Bosnia, Somalia and even Haiti, the president often seemed unable to make a connection between his goals and the means he was ready to spend to achieve them. But that has not been the case in much of his economic diplomacy.

Take Russia, for instance. One of the most difficult tasks for the administration was to figure out how to use American and international aid to help induce Moscow toward tough free-market reforms, without destabilising President Boris N. Yeltsin, who would have to sell the package to his people. Dangling the aid was a bit like trying to lure a mouse with a bit of cheese. If you put the cheese too close, the mouse just eats it. If you put the cheese too far away, the mouse can't see it. After some fits and starts, Mr. Clinton, who met with Mr. Yeltsin here last week, got it just about right, and while the main credit for reform must go to the Russians, the American role has been positive.

While the administration has groped for an overarching theme to its foreign policy, it has a pretty clear one in its economic diplomacy. Early on, it named 10 countries as "Big Emerging Markets" — countries like India, Brazil and Indonesia — and it has systematically worked with American business executives to make sure they are exploiting the opportunities there. On the broader question of trade, the president, in defiance of the old-time labour mandarins in his own party, has staked out a position in favour of free trade and opening markets and has stuck to it, fighting with all his credibility for the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Much to the administration's frustration, though, Mr. Clinton has gotten almost no credit for these policies from the very constituency that has most benefited from his merchant diplomacy — the American business community. It is almost as though American

business leaders cannot grasp that a Democratic president is pursuing their interests so intently. Whatever the reason, business leaders are not in Mr. Clinton's pocket, even though they seem to be picking it quite regularly. It is almost though business leaders have not forgiven Mr. Clinton for his original sin — rising taxes on high-income earners in his first year. But consider this: Mr. Clinton has won passage of NAFTA, and if Congress passes GATT this year, he may well deserve to be remembered as one of the biggest tax-cutters in history, since the two agreements lower tariffs — which are taxes on imports — by billions of dollars over the next decade.

Trade, and merchant diplomacy tend to be positive-sum games. More important, the interplay between trade, technology, education, training, economics and jobs really does seem to engage the president intellectually and animate him politically. When talking about foreign security matters, like Haiti, he tends to speak from rote cards; when talking about foreign economic policy, like NAFTA, he teleprompter is necessary.

But this historical moment has also been one far more conducive to merchant diplomacy than gunboat diplomacy. After the cold war, more and more countries wanted to be market-oriented; everyone wanted more trade and more investment, and the American economic model was embraced worldwide. The American public, hoping for better jobs and wages, was very much in favour of economic engagement with the world.

By contrast, America went through a defence wind-down and a psychological withdrawal from military-style engagement abroad. The public equated intervention in Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti with intrigue, uncertainty and waste — and all these moods percolated upward and were reflected by the president in his own uncertain handling of these issues.

But lest Mr. Clinton and his economic advisers become too smug, they might want to remember this: The easy part for them is over. When they came into office GATT and NAFTA were already teed up and ready to go. The partial agreement reached in this weekend's negotiations with Japan demonstrate that the administration is still struggling for a long-term way to deal with the imbalance of trade with Tokyo. And it is still unclear whether the Clinton team will be able to fulfill its hopes of extending NAFTA to the rest of Latin America or free trade to the Pacific community. Russia and the other emerging markets may be on the right track, but their arrival at the station remains uncertain. Mr. Clinton and his team have certainly exploited the moment they inherited. But even they acknowledge uncertainty about what their own legacy will be. The New York Times.

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Culture of democracy is bred from the roots

By Mohammad Mashariqa

A LEADING figure in one of Jordan's political parties last week attended the sessions of a seminar entitled Current Trends In Electoral Systems and declared that a great deal of change has come over the political scene in the Kingdom in recent years.

In the old days, he said, political meetings were held in utmost secrecy, "where some of us used to appear in disguise, and we used to follow indirect methods and institutions in our writings to express our political views."

"Today," he added, "we don't best suits and sit in the most luxurious hotels not only to issue statements criticising the government but also to demand — in the presence of government officials — to have an intellectual revolution and a change in rules and regulations."

I reflected on this statement as I attended part of that seminar and reviewed in my mind the number of seminars and workshops organised in the space of one week in the capital. Indeed there were 11 of them dealing with information and democracy, elections, culture, agriculture, the family, childhood, etc.

I find myself wondering, like other editorial writers and columnists in the local press, whether the great number of seminars and meetings — some of which indeed overlap in objectives — really indicate a healthy sign, whether this large number of meetings contribute positively towards enhancing democracy.

Some hold the view that these meetings are only a manifestation of democracy in its cultural aspect, noting that political democracy on the other hand has been witnessing a retreat from its starting point some four years ago.

In my view the following points can help one to cast a realistic and objective look at the situation:

1) — Questions taken up by the seminars are in essence an expression of a desire for change and development towards a democratic society. They are also an indication that the Jordanian society is awakening and realising its own problems which can no longer be handled in the old obsolete methods.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Questions that are being discussed at these meetings have been imposed by regional and international developments, making it incumbent on the Kingdom to become more and more self-reliant — building up its intrinsic identity and character — culturally and politically.

Jordanians over the past five decades had been in the habit of solving their problems through directives or ideas passed to them from higher authority and as a result they have come to know a group of bureaucrats and government officials in the pay of the state writing and publishing what pleases the bosses and the higher authority.

It is these bureaucrats that try to fight off these meetings and these seminars, continually attacking

them as childish acts that lead to nowhere.

Take for instance the ambitious work of Mustafa Hamarneh, head of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan who has been the target of the old guard and the traditional bureaucratic groups for his spearheading efforts towards development and change.

Dr. Hamarneh has been trying patiently but persistently to handle the Kingdom's economic, cultural and political issues through seminars and studies and trying to bridge the gap between the academic institutions and the Jordanian society.

2) — Two parties have been absenting themselves from the series of seminars and political or cultural workshops: The government and the Jordanian political parties. Senior government officials are boycotting the meetings, and should they appear, it is only to defend the government's position without due cause, being afraid of airing their own views freely lest their words would be interpreted in a manner that could displease higher authority. Indeed, a former senior government official attending one of these seminars could not help shouting down speakers who had criticised his actions saying he could not take it any more, repeating that he was loyal to the government.

On the other hand, the political parties which had been looked on as a forum for cultural and ideological activities and national dialogue over political and economic issues to shape the country's future identity have regrettably showed total impotence.

These parties have proved to be alien elements satisfied with initial ideological statements which party members tend to repeat from time to time at seminars which they happen to partly attend.

The workshops, which are organised by non-governmental organisations, give positive indications about the role which these organisations plan to adopt in the future.

3) — The important lessons which we can learn after every conference or seminar is the need for learning the culture of democracy. In my view, political and cultural groups continue to exercise the difficult task of learning about democracy and respect of other people's views and also in testing their own capabilities and roles in the process of change. The continuing debate simply revolves around the Jordanian society's future and the role of its individuals in an atmosphere of freedom and openness and away from restrictions, inhibitions and barriers which have to date stifled thinking and obstructed free creative work.

Relaying these meetings to the public through television is a matter of extreme importance as it helps to involve the public in a dialogue about the future and tends to defuse fear and end hesitation on the part of the society to actively participate in such meetings.

In my view, learning democracy is not confined to the media. The school is the real environment where new culture and the nucleus of change can be ingrained.

A well-timed piece of scholarship

Christianity In The Arab World

By El Hassan Bin Talal, (Crown Prince of Jordan)
Amman, The Royal Institute For Inter-Faith Studies, 1994

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal continues to amaze his fans. Even during these turbulent days, His Royal Highness has time to devote to ethereal matters. Among his latest achievements is the release of a new work written by His Highness as the first publication of the newly founded Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies: Christianity In The Arab World. Incidentally the Institute for Inter-Faith Studies is patronised by the Crown Prince.

The book tempts the reader to think that he can quickly read through its 100 mid-size pages printed in conveniently significant characters. Once the reader is set on the first chapter, he finds out it is not the case. However, I do not suggest here that the book is difficult to read. On the contrary, this beautifully compact work is so well-researched, documented and elegantly composed that you wish the pages do not end.

Christianity In The Arab World consists of twelve chapters covering the Faith from Jesus Christ to the present. Although one might think that it is rather impossible to deal with such a long and magnificent period in only 100 pages, it is not the details in Christianity In The Arab World that capture the reader; it is the mastery of selection which the author exhibits. These twelve chapters, rather, twelve topics on Christianity, are well-chosen and amazingly evenly spread.

"What is Christianity?" is the first chapter. To be written in English does not mean that it is only directed to an Englishman: A Muslim can appreciate it as well. But I am sure it will be as enjoyable and convincing to a Christian as it is to a Muslim.

It reveals the crucial basics of the rise and development of early Christianity. The Scriptures, early church fathers and the formation of Christian communities around the world are but a few of the topics dealt with here. In less than twenty pages, the reader becomes well-acquainted with the fine doctrinal issues on which the Faith was built.

Chapter 2 discusses the origins and elements of the Nicene Creed. To a Muslim who is not meagerly

educated in Christian doctrines, I found it to be an extremely revealing piece of scholarship. Many of my Christian friends thought of it as a well-rounded documentation of the Faith.

The organisation of the church is dealt with in Chapter 3. Through a well-researched and precisely written exposition, the reader learns that the church was organised mostly on "political" basis, and that the tension between church and state was always there. However, it is not until the fourth chapter that we learn about the difference between church and monastery.

Chapters 4 and 5 are devoted to the examination of Christological controversies and the two Iconoclast movements. The author, with deep and well-balanced treatment touches on many controversial subjects (or "heresies": heterodoxies) such as Monophysite and Monothelite movements. The preciseness in exposition, I must confess, is indeed masterful.

The first five chapters of Christianity In The Arab World prepare the reader to accept, sadly, the coming of schism between Rome and Constantinople. The role of the Arab and Arab/Aramean population of the Byzantine Empire in fomenting this severance of the churches is carefully plotted. It is obvious, therefore, to bring at this juncture a topic entitled: "The Difference Islam Made" (Chapter 7). Here, the relations between Christianity and Islam, strenuous or tolerant, are laid out. We learn that the Arab ethnic convictions of Eastern as well as Byzantine and Catholic churches, were extremely important in the development of inter-church relations and feuds. Moreover, a Muslim reader of this chapter will warmly appreciate the mode of tolerance his forefathers harboured and exhibited for Christian communities under Islamic rule. A word of praise must be uttered here for the manner in which the author handled the Crusades in this chapter.

The following two chapters of the book are devoted to the efforts made by Rome (Catholicism) to win to its side Christian communities in the Arab World. The emergence of Uniate churches was the answer to these efforts as a happy medium. It is summarised as follows: The Uniate churches built excellent relations with Rome and acknowledged the Papacy's supremacy over Eastern churches of the Arab World, while upholding their doctrinal peculiarities.

ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTER-FAITH STUDIES

CHRISTIANITY IN THE ARAB WORLD

EL HASSAN BIN TALAL
Crown Prince of Jordan

The book deals with Protestantism in the Arab World, though relatively newly-introduced, in a fashion not less informative and perceptive than its handling of the other more "important" subjects previously mentioned. Moreover, we learn that the impact of Protestants on the Arab World in education and the awakening of Arab nationalism far exceeds what a small number of Protestants might be able to do.

The final notes on which Christianity In The Arab World end are indeed passionate, yet, more accurately, realistic. However, and by all means, they are not pessimistic.

On the contrary, the author invites both sides of

the equation: Arab Muslims and Christians to examine their long and common history of amicable and fruitful relations and derive from it strength and wisdom to face the dangers of extremism on both sides.

The present book has a few supplementary sections which add to the usefulness of this effort. Two maps of the Near East in Early Christianity and the Eastern Arab World today come in very handy for the reader. A chart of principal Christian confessions and churches is very useful in summing up the book. In order to simplify and make complicated terms more attainable, the original roots, verbs and nouns of Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Arabic words are cited. This proves to be extremely helpful in understanding complex meanings and terms such as the difference between "Jesus" and "Christ" or the origin of "schism", "monophysite" or "iconoclast". Moreover, indices and suggested references aid the reader upon the completion of his task. He returns more easily to specific verses of the scriptures, terms, personalities and topics to help himself re-examine the book.

Christianity In The Arab World is not a controversial book or one written in order to make the charts of flashy news. Nor is it an amusing piece of literature which lures the reader into experiencing psychedelic adventures. In a world much in need of rationality and understanding, this concise book is most appropriate and welcome. I strongly recommend it for Muslims and Christians alike.

A small piece of advice for the concerned reader: Do acquire your own copy; don't borrow it. After reading it, I am sure you will be needing it for repeated references in your daily discussions for many weeks to follow.

The subject matter, arduous research, careful choice of language and terminology, eloquent exposition and well-chosen timing of its release are the basic ingredients of this work's success.

Without reservations, this precious and illuminating piece of scholarship, indeed, finds its way to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's long list of outstanding achievements.

Dr. Fawwaz Ahmad Tuqan

Dr. Tuqan is a professor of Islamic civilisation and literature at the University of Jordan.

Frizzle-haired imperial Russians join British royals in Pacific names

By Michael Field
Agence France Presse

AUCKLAND — It all sounded very European when volcanoes erupted this month over Simpsonson on the Gazele Peninsula, in the Fismarck Archipelago's New Britain Island, near the Duke of York Islands and New Ireland.

But it all took place in the South Pacific — and the confusion is thanks to generations of western explorers who not only named the region with the names of their home countries.

In the past century, most islands and states in the region have had two names — some as many as six — reflecting colonial egos.

Mercifully, some did not catch on. Joining to the beach in an "eschscholtz" or a "udiamilai" sounds uncomfortable. Fortunately those names for Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands disappeared before making a contribution to the English language.

Tavurur have seriously damaged Rabaul, on the Gazelle Peninsula at the northeastern end of New Britain. Originally German, then Australian, Japanese, back to Australian and now part of Papua New Guinea (PNG), New Britain was named in 1700 by William Dampier, and 67 years later Philip Carteret named it New Ireland.

The Germans named the whole place after their Iron Chancellor and re-

named New Britain Neu-Pommern and New Ireland became Neu-Mecklenburg, after the former states of eastern Germany.

New Guinea comes from Spaniard Inigo Ortiz de Retes who in 1542 named the coast he was sailing past Nueva Guinea while Papua comes from Portuguese explorer Jorge De Meneses in 1526 after the Malay word papuwah, meaning "frizzle-haired" — a reference to local

hair-styles.

The whole business of names in the Pacific is all Greek anyway: Polynesia (many islands), Melanesia (black islands) and Micronesia (small islands).

Sometimes European explorers tried to find the local names — Aitutaki in the Cook Islands was Whytootakee, Citizens of Makemo in French Polynesia might have wished for a similar effort from their Russian discoverer, who blessed them

Prince Golenitschev-Kutuzov-Smolensk Island. A covey of imperial Russians featured on Pacific maps. There was Lieutenant-General Yermolov Island (now Taenga, French Polynesia), Admiral Chichagov (Faaiti, French Polynesia), Grand Duke Alexander (Rakahanga, Cook Islands) and General Osten-Saken (Kaiu, French Polynesia).

Rimsky-Korsakov Island is now Rongerik in the Marshall Islands and the current Bishop of Osnaburg can be grateful the island that honoured his predecessor has reverted to its original Polynesian, Mururoa, scene of French nuclear testing.

Same places were named with no thought of the tourist industry. Try selling Savage Island, so named by a petulant James Cook after a local tossed a spear at him. Now it is known as Niue.

Today Pleasant Island would be hard pressed to attract a tourist — it is the phosphate mined out moonscape of Nauru. Rakahanga in the Cooks was named by a Spaniard Isla de Gente Hermosa — the Island of Handsome People — which is right.

There were lots of Saints, San and Santa, mostly now gone. The only Biblically named state now is the Solomon Islands while Vanuatu has reverted to its magical original name Kapingamarangi which although part of FSM is Polynesian.

Some of the local names are difficult: Anuanurunga in French Polynesia, Guamagumlap in the Ebon or Boston Atoll in the Marshalls and Uanukuhake in Tonga trip off the tongue.

The one island that isn't in the Pacific is the one most associated with the region — Bali Hai. Although most Pacific cities have a bar or two so named, it comes from the Broadway musical South Pacific, based on James Michener's book.

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Monty Python celebrates 25th anniversary

LONDON (R) — Nudge, nudge, wink, wink — they will say no more.

The anarchic legends of Monty Python's Flying Circus celebrated the 25th anniversary of their first broadcast but, like the Beatles, they have no plans for a reunion.

From Canadian lumberjacks, confessing they were transvestites to a quiz starring Karl Marx and Che Guevara, the cult television show trans-

formed British comedy and was a major influence on American stars like Steve Martin and John Belushi.

John Cleese, 54, who in the show immortalised "The Ministry Of Silly Walks" and many years later won international cinematic acclaim in the hit film A Fish Called Wanda, said: "I don't think it's likely that we'll get back together because we all have our own pro-

jects."

But he is keen to give the four other surviving members — Graham Chapman died of cancer in 1989 — came parts in his Fish Called Wanda sequel.

Fellow Python Michael Palin, 51, who branched out into straight acting as well as popular television travelogues, said: "There is always the thought of a one-off show but I don't think it will happen."

"We have had our time and to force it again would be ridiculous," he said of the show which ran to 45 episodes from its debut in 1969.

The Python team, whose best known link line was "And now for something completely different," also made three feature films that became cult hits in the United States.

American Terry Gilliam, 53, whose

psychedelic cartoons were an integral part of Python, went on to become a director of such films as Brazil and The Fisher King with Robin Williams. The other surviving Python is Eric Idle, who has made stage appearances in recent years.

Critics waxed lyrical about how the surreal show delighted in pricking the pomposity of British society but attacked its one-dimensional portraits of

women as sexual stooges. In one famous sketch, one man salaciously quizzed another about his wife and their sex life, constantly prodding him and saying "nudge, nudge, wink, wink — say no more."

Palin and Cleese were hailed as "The Lennon and McCartney of comedy" and former Beatle George Harrison helped to fund their films.

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Pure power

By Jean-Claude Elias

Without water there would be no life and without electricity there would be no computers. In spite of the seriousness of certain theories saying that one day our beloved personal computers (PC) may run on light, we'll still depend exclusively on the electric power in order to do our daily computing, for a few decades at least.

Just like water is not always as pure as we wish it would be, the domestic and industrial electric networks rarely deliver the clean, sinusoidal wave we should theoretically receive. None of the Jordanian companies producing electricity is to blame for that. The situation is, more or less, identical in all countries. Practically speaking it is impossible to deliver a perfect current over a large network.

Ideally, the electric power we use should have a potential difference (simply called voltage) of 220 volts, alternating between negative and positive values 50 times a second, that is at the frequency of 50 Hz of hertz. Volt and hertz come from the names of two physicists-Italian Volta and German Hertz. It is to be noted that the above values vary according to countries. In the U.S. and Canada for instance, the potential difference is 110 volts and the frequency 60 Hz.

However, because of the huge load on the network, with all the equipment and appliances that draw power from it, and the constant change of this load — people switching equipment on and off all the time — regulating the voltage is a dreaded nightmare for power companies.

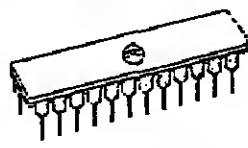
In addition to perturbing the first two elements of the electric wave, that is the voltage and the frequency, the imperfections of the network generate, mainly, three other types of problems.

The first is the presence of electrical noise. Simply put, it is a lack of purity in the original signal. Other waves, different from the main one, and generated by other equipment drawing power from the network, come and "add themselves" to it. The second is the presence of sudden surges or spikes that very sharply and for a fraction of a second, drastically change the value of the voltage. A 220 volts power grid may deliver as high as 300 or as low as 100 volts for a split second. The third type of problems is simply the total power failure.

Although modern PCs are manufactured to sustain a reasonable amount of power fluctuations and imperfections, experience has shown that in the best case, over a six month period, almost any computer will have to run, at least once, on electricity that is beyond its tolerance limits.

The damage that such harsh conditions can do to both the hardware and the software can be very severe. It can go from simple data loss to hardware crashes that cannot be fixed. The worst cases are those that go unnoticed. A power surge occurs, too fast for the eye to see, and data is partially damaged without even the machine issuing any warning to the

chip talk



user. One can easily imagine the consequences of such data alterations.

How many times have you seen your PC stalled without apparent cause, only to see it back to work after a good push of the reset button?

Since technical people started tackling power problems several years ago, different solutions have appeared. Alas, those affordable to the private PC user are far from being efficient and the good remedies are too expensive for him.

The simplest and cheapest form of power correction is an automatic voltage regulator. In Jordan they are priced from JD 30 to JD 100 for a typical PC. Unfortunately they only adjust the voltage. Moreover their response time is very slow compared to the speed at which PCs work. If a very fast spike occurs, by the time the voltage is corrected, the damage is already done.

A better solution is the electric power conditioner. This machine does not only adjust the voltage very quickly, it also filters the incoming current, cleaning it from eventual "electric noise". It is very efficient at killing surges and spikes as well. Good quality power conditioners for PCs cost JD 200 to JD 400.

The ideal, dream solution is the UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). To start with, it has all the goodies of the power conditioner. In addition, it provides frequency adjustment and even keeps supplying power when the mains go off. It does not, naturally, do it indefinitely but for a limited period of time, this depending on the batteries it is fitted with. Most UPS come with a 10-minute battery back up which is enough to allow the computer operator to calmly close his work, then the machine, waiting for the power to return. UPS for PCs in Jordan cost JD 400 to JD 800.

Though not an easy choice, it is important to know whether one needs a voltage regulator, a power conditioner, a UPS, or no power protection at all. The only person who can decide is the user and the only reasonable approach is to evaluate the importance of the data one is processing.

Vital banking or military applications for example all depend on high quality, high powered UPS equipment. On the other hand, simple "home made" word processing can live without any form of power protection. In between, people tend to purchase medium priced power conditioners or rely on daily data back up instead of power protection.

Celebrating place and event through street art

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

There are always different ways of seeing, understanding and interpreting objects, events and places, and learning to see beyond the visible into the invisible and absurd qualities of things. We place a value on objects of art in the sense that we queue to see them, spend money on them, invest our time in seeing, reading or listening to them. We begin to have a communion between the viewer and the artist via the artwork.

Street-artists are a part of an old tradition which is a celebration of place and event, or performance, through sometimes the most simple and ephemeral means of life itself. A place like the Centre Pompidou (Paris), when it is empty in the middle of the night becomes the experience of art waiting to happen.

The setting (or place) and the art (event or performance) have become intertwined.

There is a great freedom involved when it comes to work when and how you want to. Nearly all the artists we can pass by on the streets know something

about life we can no longer see or have forgotten how to remember. And there is an anonymity to this which may be shared with the unknown stonemasons and builders who made the great cathedrals of the world. As individuals, they remain small and anonymous, but the collective result of what they do is huge and overpowering.

Street art has become a true part of everyday activity and popular culture all over Europe. Whether we go to Prague, Frankfurt, Vienna, Stockholm or London, street entertainment is the one common element which, more than anything, unifies the way we come to experience these cities; in August, I was lucky enough to see the same South American folk group perform on the streets of London and Stockholm within the space of a week.

Maybe, just maybe, as far as we in the sprawling Jordanian cities are concerned, when we do begin to build spaces for people (and only people) in the parts of our cities where they are really needed and where they can be put to efficient use we can begin to enjoy the kind of spontaneous street life and performances we have thus far been denied.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 6

7:10 Road To Avonlea

A winner of many international awards. A series that children and parents will enjoy watching together. Actors appearing include: Michael York, Peter Coyote, Sam Neil and many more.

8:30 My Secret Identity

The Set Up

A genius teacher/inventor collaborates with one of his genius students to work up a hilarious plot to catch a crook.

9:10 Snowy River

Plans Of Poison

Would Mrs. O'Neal stay on the land even after her cows are found poisoned?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Wide Eyed And Legless

Starring: Julie Walters and Jim Broadbent

A wife suffering from an unknown deadly disease hates to leave her loving husband alone after she is gone. In fighting her pain, she looks for the right woman to take her place.

11:10 Never The Twain

For a woman to fix dates with 2 store-owners at the same time, in the same place, seems a brilliant way to rob their store!

Friday, Oct. 7

7:15 On Location

Meet some of the famous movie actors who will speak about some of their outstanding roles in motion pictures.

7:30 African Skies

8:30 Movies, Games, Videos

A look at the most recently released movies, and latest in video games....

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

Street Dogs

Driven by guilt, a New York policeman moves down to the South Coast, aided by a female colleague, and a dog, and cracks down on the bad guys.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Another catastrophe in the house, and Emilie drives her husband Charles away.

11:10 Coming Of Age

Arizona Danes is a place of peace and quiet, to where the elderly retire. But its character changes when a party is held.

Saturday, Oct. 8

7:30 Black Beauty

8:30 Bob

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Leona Helmsley: The Queen Of Mean

Starring: Suzan Pleshette and Lloyd Bridges

The true story of Leona Helmsley who, after 4 years in prison, is out on \$7 million bail, and is awaiting trial. She is accused of embezzlement and tax evasion.

11:50 Home Free

Sunday, Oct. 9

7:30 The F.B.I.: Untold Stories

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

★ The giraffe is truly a 'dumb' animal being unable to make any vocal sound. Also, in spite of the extra long neck, it only has the same number of bones in the neck as a mouse has, seven.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Eccentric American millionaire William Randolph Hearst, was so fond of telephones that he had them fitted all over his house — and even in the gardens. Many were concealed in tree trunks!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The owl has no movement in its eyes but to compensate for this it can revolve its head in an almost complete circle!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The village of Mina in the middle of India's Rajasthan desert is the strangest on earth — or rather than the villagers are. Every one is a thief. Stealing is their traditional occupation.

ARABIC PROVERBS EXPLAINED

— "If you miss the meat, take the soup (as a substitute)."

TRANSLITERATION: In faatak el-lahm alahk bel-marak.

MEANING: Try not to miss both. Or, if you miss one try to get the other.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— "The father is unfaithful (lit. in love); the mother is (lit. from the daughter at home perplexed)."

TRANSLITERATION: Al-ub ashiq; wal-umm ghayrana; wal-bint hayrana.

MEANING: It is expected that a young woman or young man will be at a loss when father and mother are estranged.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— (He) eats, drinks and escapes from worries (is free from worries).

TRANSLITERATION: Aakil, sharib, manil-ham sharib.

MEANING: Said of one who is fortunate in having all the pleasures of life provided him without exerting any effort to procure them.

TIME FOR FUN

★ Donald Crowe stopped his camper truck along the

Yellow-stone National Park road.

"A bear!" shouted Donald with delight.

His wife cautioned him: "Dear, the signs say, 'do not feed the bears!'"

"A sandwich or two isn't going to hurt the bear."

Donald jumped out of the camper and neared the bear with a sandwich in his right hand. He then tossed the sandwich which the bear caught and downed in one gulp. Finally he gave the bear his second sandwich.

Suddenly the bear growled ferociously. He wanted the third sandwich which Donald didn't have.

Donald turned his pockets inside out to show he had no more food. "No more. See? ... I've given you all my sandwiches."

The bear began to rush towards Donald. Donald ran for his life. As he breathlessly tore the camper door open, Donald gasped, "that bear just doesn't understand English!"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- How many teeth are there in the normal set for (a) a child under five (b) full-grown man (c) a horse (d) a dog (e) a cat?
- What is the correct way of beginning and ending letters to (a) a bishop (b) the king?
- What are the LITHOSPHERE, the STRATOSPHERE, the TROPOSPHERE, the IONOSPHERE, and the HYDROSPHERE?
- What is the name of the river on which Mexico City is situated?

PUZZLES

LINE UP

Rearrange the letters in each row to form a word so that the three columns (indicated by arrows) also form words.

A	I	R	F	U	E	L
M	A	R	I	N	E	S
P	E	S	T	I	M	E
P	E	N	S	E	X	E
M	A	R	O	D	O	N
C	A	N	I	C	O	E
M	A	L	E	K	I	N

Thoughts for this week

Your friend will argue with you — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer (1918-)

Los secretos ni oiros ni deciros (Don't listen to secrets, and don't tell them.) — Spanish proverb.

Would to God that we might spend a single day really well — Thomas A. Kempis, German monk and author (C. 1380-1471).

God gives us relatives; thank God, we can choose our friends — Addison Mizner, American architect (1872-1933).

Who never doubted, never half believed, where doubt is, there truth is — it is her shadow — Gamaliel Bailey, American abolitionist (1807-1859).

Human beings are the only creatures who are able to behave irrationally in the name of reason — Ashley Montagu, English anthropologist.

كنا من الامل

Ammanites just love video films

By Matt Denny
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — What is the average Jordanian doing for entertainment this evening? Turning into a werewolf? Crossing the African veldts? Riding on a roller coaster? Chances are your neighbour is not doing any of these things, but he/she may just be watching them on video.

According to one Amman video store owner, over 80 per cent of Ammanites are renting video cassettes. He said that for the average Ammanite it is inexpensive and relatively easy to pick up a copy of the most recent films. Given the low cost, accessibility and the opportunity for family gatherings, watching rented movies has become one of Amman's most popular forms of entertainment, he says.

According to the manager of a leading video rental store, the movies showing in American cinemas are available before they

leave the silver screen, and far earlier than they are shown in cinemas in Amman.

"For only one dinar a film, as compared to JD 6 for two seats at the cinema, Jordanians are finding that renting video cassettes is a very inexpensive way to spend the evening," says Youssef Adnan, a Video House patron.

Most video rental patrons visit the video stores about three times a week, according to Ibrahim Hamadi, the director of Jabal Amman's Video House.

A survey by the Jordan Times of several video shops in different parts of Amman shows that Ammanites are renting an average of three movies every time they visit the rental store.

"When you look at the numbers, it is possible that there are some people who are watching rented videos every night of the week," Rafat Masri, the manager of a video store in the downtown area, said.

Most video stores have

a JD 25-per 30 films-per month arrangements. Mr. Masri points out that this is a small price to pay given the large selection of video cassettes these stores offer.

The selection can range from 6,500 to 12,000 video cassettes. He says that the rental stores can accommodate high demands for popular movies by purchasing multiple copies. Some video rental stores have as many as eight VHS copies of each new movie and usually at least one Beta copy.

According to Haythem Khasman, owner of a video store in Jabal Hussein, the stores themselves pay about JD 100 for an American or English movie and about JD 700 for an Arabic movie. He explained the original copy price was much higher for Arabic films. American and other English language movies are more readily available through a greater number of wholesalers, foreign and domestic. Arabic and Indian films however are

distributed by relatively fewer wholesalers, primarily in Egypt, a country with a monopoly on that market, he continued.

Although renting a few videos seems to be less expensive than a night at the cinema, purchasing the Video cassette Recorder (VCR) is not cheap. A survey of several stores in Amman reveals that the going price for a VCR in Jordan is between JD 350 and JD 800.

Despite the price, VCR sales are on the rise, says an employee of Al Adham, a leading retailer of electronic home appliances in west Amman.

On average, 110 video cassettes are rented a night, the manager at Quntar Video in Jabal Hussein said. He says that because of lower prices and a varied selection, people with VCRs are attending the cinema less frequently.

At a local Amman movie theatre The Pelican Brief is currently showing, but according to the Jordan Video Tape Centre, it

was available in rental stores four months ago.

Though there is a trend towards recent releases, Jordanians aren't otherwise particular about what type of film they rent. The top rentals vary in genre from week to week.

This week in Jabal Amman, the most popular hired videos are Wolf, The Lion King and in third place the movie Speed, according to Mr. Hamdi of Video House.

In Shmesani, people have been running out to the video store to rent Wolf, "but City Slickers 2 and Baby's Day Out are also among the most popular here," says the manager of Jordan Video Tape Centre.

In Jabal Hussein, Quntar Video reports that people are mainly renting action-adventure films from America with Arabic videos proving less popular.

According to the manager at Simah Video, a majority of his patrons are watching Arabic movies.

He said that Egyptian movies are a favourite among fans of the Arabic film. However, according to a survey of several other downtown video rental shops, recent American releases still compete in popularity with movies produced in the Middle East or Western Asia.

In east Amman, video store patron Hussein Amin said that Egyptian movies were the favourites among Arabic movies. According to several store managers and store owners in the area Indian movies are also among the favourites, while European movies dubbed in Arabic have proved fairly popular.

No matter what section of town, Ammanites are watching action-adventure films produced in a variety of languages, as well as comedies, dramas and even animated feature length cartoons.

On the whole the popularity of video film seems to depend not on the country origin, but instead on a proven record in the international box office.

Television expert and author Mark Dunton explains that there are several types of TV systems used throughout the world. The system that Jordan uses, along with the rest of the Middle East, is the PAL (Phase Alternating Line) system. Mr. Dunton reports that in order to view a video cassette recorded on the American system, NTSC (National Television System Committee), the consumer has to purchase a VCR with multiple system capabilities. A multiple capability system allows viewing on several other regional systems such as the SECAM (System Couleurs A Memoirs) viewed in Eastern Europe and Western Asia, and the NTSC system viewed in North and Central America. With all these options, Jordanians have the capability to watch films of just about every origin.

Illusion, imagery characterise Turkish filmmaker's latest works

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Theatre-goers used to typical Turkish horror and sex movies, were in for something else last week: Halit Refig's *Two Strangers* (1991), and *Lady* (1989).

Two Strangers is a drama that tells the story of a young Turkish man, fond of blue-eyed, blond-haired foreign girls, who thinks Western society is far better than his eastern one.

Coincidentally he meets a blond, Swedish girl. A blind admirer of Western civilisation, he is compulsively attracted to her, but as their relationship develops, he realises the great contradictions in moral values, principles, concepts, behaviour and ethics.

Confusion drives him mad. His mind is overwhelmed by many questions: Is the West good or bad? Is it better to stick to Muslim traditions, or to be involved in Western societies?

"People may say West is best and damn religion and traditions," director Halit Refig, 60, told the Jordan Times, "but most Turkish people believe the West is rotten and immoral," but those in the middle are ignorant and easily confused.

On meeting an American girl, the hero also falls in love with her. With the development of events, he suspects both girls to be one, and begins looking for a clue.

Failing to find a clue, he talks to the American girl about his suspicions, in an attempt to force her to reveal the truth. Fright-

ened, she runs away. In her hurry to escape, a wisp of blond hair falls from underneath her black hair, and running into the road she is hit by a speeding car. When he returns home, he finds the Swedish girl, and sinks into confusion once again.

Throughout the movie, Refig tries "to focus on the confusion facing Turkish people with regards to Western society."

"For Turkish people, the moral values, traditions, and behaviour of Western civilisation, is a mystery."

Located at a point where Asia merges with Europe, Turkey is greatly influenced by both cultures, although the majority of the population is Muslim.

"Common people and peasants enjoy Turkish movies, but more edu-

cated people prefer American films and hope to forget about being Muslims," said Mr. Refig. "The principal character in *Two Strangers* is one of this type."

The idea of the movie "came to mind in 1973 when I divorced my Swedish wife after six years of marriage," said Refig. "Friends suggested I made a movie for both Swedes and Turks. So, the idea was born; and it was developed between then, and 1991."

Refig, a professional filmmaker who has directed 60 movies since the early 1960s, says he makes movies for Turkish people and he produces what they like, "otherwise I am out of work. Actually I feel biased to the peculiar characteristics of Turkish culture."

Both movies, *Two Strangers* and *Lady*, unveil. A variety of Turkish culture: traditional costumes, ways of life antiquities, landscapes, the sea-side — a great part of the Bosphorus Sea is shown in *Lady*.

Lady is a sentimental story of a dying old woman, who suffers from cancer of the uterus, but refuses treatment. "It is easier not to believe illness," she says.

Instead of saving her own life, the old lady expects a great deal of effort to find someone to take care of her cat after her death. But a cat is a burden, people say, and her efforts are in vain.

The old lady's daughter, who represents the new generation, lives a materialistic life. She is careless about her mother, and hates the cat as well.

However, the house, a property that can be inherited, means a lot to her. "Humanity is dead," says the old lady, and "the daughter's behaviour refers to vanishing traditional Turkish values," says Refig.

The dying old woman goes on a last trip in a "dying" boat, that has become rotten and will be dumped in a "graveyard" for boats.

"I have always loved those ships with yellow chimneys which are a symbol of the Bosphorus Sea," says the captain.

"This two-element image, a dying woman and a dying boat, reflects a vanishing culture," said Refig. "It shows a sophisticated culture being replaced by a new one — a new materialistic life."

Being a piano teacher, the old lady concludes that

Turkish people favour international composers, Chopin or Beethoven, in preference to local composers, whose music "sounds of death."

Illusions and imagery characterise Refig's two movies. One may think the director himself lives in an illusory world. But, "I do not really live in an illusory world," said the director. "I use illusions in my movies as expressions or symbols of moral values, in which I am very much involved. Close your eyes and you will see another reality — a spiritual existence. I always try to balance spiritual and material worlds."

Unlike Turkish filmmakers who always try to meet the public demands by producing commercial movies, Refig has original ideas that address the intellectual sector. He

attempts to realise these ideas within the industrial structure of film world, he said. "I cannot reject the local movie industry and be an outsider," said Refig.

The Turkish film industry, founded in 1923, emerged in late 1940s and early 1950s. "I entered this field in the late 1950s, and directed my first movie in the 1960s," said Refig.

"Turkish film industry has always tried to build its character on the public's demands," said Refig. "So, on the success of my early films, I gained complete independence to direct non-commercial movies. Out of 60 movies, I directed 15, including *Two Strangers* and *Lady*, that are completely independent of the commercial sector."

Tamari creates works of ingenious depth and sensuality

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vladimir Tamari is a Palestinian Arab artist, inventor and physicist who was born in Jerusalem in 1942, was educated at the Friends Boy's School in his hometown in Ramallah — Palestine, then studied physics and art at the American University of Beirut.

A year spent at Saint Martin's School of Art in London (around 1963) and another at Pendle Hill School near Philadelphia in the U.S.A. (in 1965) completed his formal education.

Between 1966 and 1970 he worked with U.N. agencies concerned with Palestinian refugee education and information in Beirut after which he moved to Japan where he has lived and worked ever since. Painting, inventing, and doing research in optics.

One of Tamari's first projects was a study of Arabic typography. Although Arabic calligraphy is famed for its glorious perfection as an ancient art form, its transformation into printing type caused several technical and aesthetic problems, since type makers simply tried to imitate the calligraphic style without making the necessary adjustment. For example dots, the carriers of important information in Arabic script, became almost invisible.

Inspired by the writings of the English typographer Eric Gill, and by firsthand studies at the British Museum of an ear-

ly Koran written in Kufic script, Tamari designed and patented a simplified Arabic typeface he called after Jerusalem, "Al Ouds."

Although such "modern" Arabic lettering was popular for show signs and product names, there had not been any properly-designed typeface using such simplifications suitable for printing. Eventually modern types became popular for magazine headlines, but unfortunately up till now there is no Arabic printing type similar to Al Ouds for general texts.

3-D drawing

Tamari's next project, the invention of a three dimensional drawing instrument (3DD) enables the artist or designer to draw in space. While moving a handle in three dimensions, the instrument allows two stereoscopic views to be drawn simultaneously. When viewed through the lenses of a viewer, the combined picture appears amazingly solid, like a wire sculpture.

The clarity of light in Palestine, the ever present sunshine and its unpoluted air lends sharpness and solidity to the appearance of things there. Even at great distances people and objects appear distinct and complete, undimmed by mists. The sense of distance and visual space is heightened under these conditions, and Tamari described it in



Vladimir Tamari

Paintings

Having lived in Palestine before its occupation by the Israelis in 1967, and then in Lebanon at a watershed period for the Palestine liberation struggle, his ideas and works were greatly influenced by the political events, and religious values, even the geography of his homeland and the physiognomy this way: "In the window, the flower appears near the solid, squatting shamelessly in space. Behind the flower, far away, is a pine tree, and behind the tree a street with people who appear very far. Between the flower and the tree and the street the hot summer air floats in the sunlight."

and costumes of its people.

As a child Tamari went regularly to church where he was attracted by the piety of people around him, while at the same time looking with silent amusement at some of their all too human expressions but apart for a love and awe of Palestine's holy sites, Tamari had little use for religion. It was the turmoil of ex-banition of the years in Beirut that paved the way for a classic religious "conversion" complete with an intense peaceful vision of light and God's love.

While this experience took him deeper to his roots as a Palestinian (for wasn't Christ crucified in Jerusalem, even as a whole innocent Palestinian people was now victimised by history?), it coincided with his move to Japan, a country which is physically and culturally remote from his Arab background. Together, these two experiences helped him view his homeland from a more detached and objective point of view, even while he was carrying its wound as an individual. The cross became a central theme of his paintings, even of his pictorial compositions themselves.

As an Arab and an artist, as well as inventor and scientist, Tamari makes his life, as he says, "on the edges of Japanese society, dreaming of Jerusalem while living in Tokyo." The separation from his homeland is com-

pounded by living in an industrialised, Westernised city within an ancient Eastern culture, a dichotomy which makes him feel like "an exile within exile."

Japanese culture, however, is an ongoing lesson for Tamari in reconciling these opposition, in learning how to bring into harmony his inner life and the outside world and how to express that fusion in his art. The serene gardens of Kyoto, for instance, are at once material and abstract and are, as he says, "at the borderline between art and reality."

Vladimir Tamari paints in water colour on paper. His style is distinguished with purity and delicate invisible brush-strokes that create abstract blending patterns of ingenious depth and sensuality. His, is a masterful technique of layering and over lapping colour and line, inspiring wholesome harmony and freedom that embraces all.

Colour is something he has never studied; for him it is primitive, instinctive and, he feels, must have come from his childhood, from the bright colours and clear light of Palestine.

Tamari's paintings unconsciously transmute images of Jerusalem. The soft, muted colours of the abstract forms are bordered by passages of white and centred by a patch of gold. The effect is reminiscent, he says, "of what one feels to see the glorious Dome of the Rock

after walking in the shaded small streets of the Old City." Perhaps unconsciously too, the very composition of the painting suggests a map of the old city and its various quarters, all enclosed by the wall.

His paintings, while divided into grids and circles and geometric forms, have through their colour, harmonies and infusion of light an overall unity with a patina-like atmosphere that Tamari feels is characteristic of the Old City of Jerusalem. These ab-

stracted and sublimated images, their forms defined by light and their airy sense of space, represent Tamari's love for a city that for him, growing up, encapsulated "a model of the world in all its humanity, sanity, beauty and suffering and joy... I am," he says, "a living time capsule of Palestine."

Tamari is holding an exhibition of his watercolours at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation from Oct. 5 to Oct. 28.



One of Vladimir Tamari's watercolours currently on display at Darat Al Funun

New way to stretch out DNA

By Teresa Riordan
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A new, simple way to stretch out the helix-shaped hereditary material known as DNA into straight strands will make it easier for scientists to pinpoint and map human genes, French researchers said.

Researchers at the Pasteur Institute and the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris report that they can stretch out the ordinarily helical strands of DNA by suspending them in a drop of water which is placed on a glass slide that has been painted with a thin layer of silane,

a common chemical.

A glass cover slip is then placed on top of the drop of water, flattening it out. The tips of the DNA strand bind to the silane while the rest of the genetic material floats freely in the water.

By the time the water evaporates, the DNA has straightened out into a strand that is in essence tacked onto the slide at the point where it bound to the silane molecules.

Scientists have attempted with some success to conquer the cartographic challenges inherent to DNA's helical shape by stretching it out using different methods that

employ optical tweezers, magnetic fields, or water currents.

But with these tools, measuring the distance between genes to establish geographic bench marks has been "laborious and time-consuming," according to Aaron Bensimon, a molecular biologist at the Pasteur Institute who headed up a research team that reports on the new technique in the latest issue of the journal Science.

Mr. Bensimon said the new way was much simpler. "You don't need sophisticated technology and the results are very repro-

ducible," Mr. Bensimon told Reuters in a telephone interview. "Everybody can do it. You don't have to have a PhD to let the water evaporate."

Mapping the human genome plays an important role in the ability of scientists to identify genes that are implicated in hereditary diseases. The most recent such genes to be located are linked to breast cancer.

The researchers are currently working to straighten human DNA, but the work reported in Science was the DNA from the common bacteria E. coli.

The longest strand the researchers straightened

out was about one million base pairs long, which represents several genes and about one-quarter of the bacteria's total genetic material.

Mr. Bensimon said his research team also was working to develop a new type of diagnostic test based on the new technique for HIV and other viruses.

DNA extracted from a human cell would be suspended in a solution and then dropped onto a slide coated with a protein that will bind only to viral genetic material that

might be lurking within the host's DNA, according to Mr. Bensimon.

Researchers would then rinse off the slide. The nonviral DNA would wash away, while the viral DNA would stay attached to the slide, according to Mr. Bensimon. The viral DNA would then be coated with a fluorescent material so that it could be seen under an ordinary microscope.

"This will allow us to detect minute quantities of a virus, to quantify the exact number of copies of viral DNA within a cell," Mr. Bensimon said.

Chinese medicine factory holds secret of eternal youth

By Tiffany Bown
Agence France Presse

BAICHENG, China — Are you yearning to regain your youthful good looks and energy? Looking to lengthen your life by years? Got a problem with premature ejaculation or impotence?

Then Meng Lingzheng, director of the state-run Jilin Baicheng Chinese Medicine Factory in China's northeastern Jilin province, is confident he has the answer for you.

"Shengmingbao cures all kinds of illnesses. If you take it, it will make you feel very young and look very beautiful," said Meng, lovingly caressing one of the innocuous-looking yellow and red plastic capsules — whose name translates as "Life's Treasure" — that he swears can perform many miracles.

The factory's marketing material, in somewhat curious English, lists just some uses:

"Counteracting senility and fatigue, elevating sexual functions, used in senility, feeble-mindedness, senile plague, senile mole, dizziness and tinnitus lassitude in loin and knees, fatigability, insomnia and amnesia, deficiency of vital essence and energy, emission impotency, reduced sexual functions."

But, given mankind's eternal quest for immortality, the main reason for the expensive product's good sales appears to be its promise as an elixir of life.

Meng insists this is not the kind of exaggerated marketing for which many Chinese medicine companies have recently found themselves in trouble, explaining the "scientific" basis for the effectiveness of "Life's Treasure."

"The natural length of a person's life depends on cell structure. Once your cells have split a fixed number of times, that's it — you're dead," he says.

The secret of this concoction of 21 ingredients — including ginseng, gecko, antler, "sea barse," and sesame seed — is its ability to slow down the average time between the splitting of cells from 48 to 62 hours, he says.

"Shengmingbao is a breakthrough to traditional Chinese anti-aging medicine," based on years of research and experi-

ments, says the promotional literature, which carries the image of a radiant, young girl hugging her box of Life's Treasure to her heart.

Among those experiments was one in which 50 white mice that were fed capsules for 36 days and 50 that were not were subsequently placed in a 60-metre (200-foot) long tunnel filled with deep, cold water.

"The ones that had been given Shengmingbao managed to make it to the other end, the others didn't — they just sank to the bottom," said an amused factory boss.

Like many Chinese tonics, it "also raises men's sexual ability," by nourishing the "shen" — literally the kidney, but in Chinese medicine also the invisible source of male vitality, said Meng.

The miracle tonic is just one of some 40 Chinese medicines that contribute to annual sales in the region of 50 million yuan (\$5.8 million) by Shen's factory, set up in 1970.

Among other curious but popular concoctions are "Black Chicken Balls" — sticky black lumps nearly the size of a ping-pong ball that taste like a mixture between the bitterest liquorice and tar, and are said to cure all kinds of "women's problems."

"Everything but the chicken's guts go in — meat, skin, bones, blood, feet, head," said Meng. "That's then mixed up together with about 20 other Chinese medicines. If you just had the black chickens it wouldn't work."

Exactly why it is effective remains unclear, with Meng saying simply that "Chinese medicine is based on experience of thousands of years. It cures illness by treating the root of the problem, while Western medicine treats only the superficial symptoms. It would take hours to explain."

Some 10,000 of the valuable fowl, named for their jet black skin, are raised and slaughtered at the factory's nearby farm each year.

"You have to kill them before they're one year old — if you wait any longer, they'll be no good for medicine. They have to be young and full of life — some old bird isn't going to do you any good," said Meng.

Overstretched Russian doctors appalled at threat of plague

By Catherine Triomphe
Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — Russian doctors, already stretched to the limits dealing with outbreaks of diphtheria and cholera, are appalled at the threat of a plague epidemic from India, which they know they do not have the means to combat.

"It is a disease which spreads so fast, you have to have excellent antibiotics, which we only have in very small quantities," Doctor Mikhail Sagarovich, a practising doctor in Moscow for the past 25 years, told AFP at the weekend.

No case of plague has been reported in Russia so far, but an inter-ministerial committee on contagious diseases ordered the suspension of all air links with India.

The head of Russia's health service, Yevgeni Belayev, had played down the danger last week. While acknowledging there was a real risk of the plague arriving in Russia,

he announced a ban only on charter flights to India and the obligatory vaccination of all air crew; on scheduled services and insisted that Russia had sufficient reserves of vaccine.

But doctors do not agree.

"Of course we don't have what we need," a nurse in the medical service at one of Moscow's main line stations said. "When passengers come to see us, we give them the medicine we have, and it isn't always what they need," she told AFP, asking not to be identified.

She said she would not like to imagine what would happen if a carrier of the plague got off in the Russian capital. But she said Moscow airport authorities were fully prepared.

If they found someone suspected of being a carrier they would keep him or her under observation as long as was necessary, she said. "They know what to do. Everything is ready."

Health services in Russia and former Soviet republics have been overwhelmed in recent years with epidemics of diseases ranging from diphtheria to cholera and dysentery. Nearly every week a new outbreak is reported, exacerbated by the general decline in public services and the standard of living, the migration of populations and the relaxation of all state controls.

The speed with which cholera spread this summer in the Russian Caucasus republic of Dagestan, and in the past two weeks in Ukraine, where 18 people have died and another 1,000 fallen ill, bore testament to the inadequacy of measures taken by the authorities.

Although people living in Dagestan were theoretically subjected to a compulsory health check, medical certificates were on sale at the airport, according to one local who makes regular trips to Moscow.

Even diphtheria, which doctors believed had been eradicated 10 years ago,

has come back with a vengeance since 1990. Last year it claimed 468 lives and more than 15,000 cases were reported in Russia, according to Faiz Hanni, a Frenchman who is helping set up a Russian foundation to combat the disease.

He said the disease had come back because of the lax attitude of the authorities and distrust of vaccination among certain sections of the population.

"Rumours in the press over problems with vaccines against diphtheria resulted in part of the population, already wary of medicine, opting out of being vaccinated," he said.

Doctor Sagarovich waxed almost nostalgic over the old days of the Soviet Union.

"Before, the East Bloc countries gave us medical supplies under barter agreements. Now we have to buy from them in hard currency. When you haven't got the money, everything gets very complicated."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ON THE TAKE

By Raymond Hanel

ACROSS

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2. Mysteries
3. Have confidence in
4. Teacher
5. Gusher's sire
6. Bakery branch
7. Parcel
8. Air
9. Pale yellow
10. Desert floor
11. Adversity
12. Sufferer
13. Wizard for better
14. Terms
15. Link
16. Yacht
17. Yacht
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Diagramless 21x21

By Roger Coburn

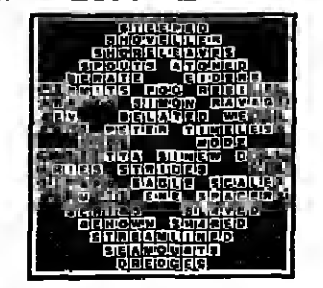
ACROSS

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3. Fortification
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6. Admiral
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DOWN

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2. Genes
3. Nodules
4. Bar
5. Cheater
6. Card game for three persons
7. Type face
8. Put into office
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Thai AIDS vaccine trials are promising; more testing needed

By Dylan Jones
Agence France Presse

BANGKOK — Researchers have reported promising initial results from Thailand's first AIDS vaccine trials but cautioned that "years" of testing are ahead in the fight against the Human Immune-Deficiency Virus (HIV).

Blood tests conducted by the Thai Red Cross Society indicated that 10 out of 24 people who received a trial vaccine from United Biomedical Inc. (UBI) had produced antibodies against HIV.

The results were more promising than in similar tests in the United States, where seven of 30 test subjects showed antibodies after injections of the same UBI serum, Dr. Praphan Phanuphak, who supervises the Thai programme said.

But the results are only preliminary, Dr. Praphan stressed.

The UBI candidate vaccine is one of several being considered for testing here, and the Red Cross programme is at the "phase one" level, primarily intended to alert researchers to side effects.

"As to how effective the antibodies would be, we could not say," Dr. Praphan told AFP, but "this opens the way to further testing of more complex versions of this synthetic vaccine."

It may also lead to direct testing against HIV samples — or phase-three tests — "in a few years from now," he said.

Other researchers expressed interest in the tests.

"This looks good," said Dr. Preecha Siharaj of the Army Medical Research Institute, which scrapped its own trials of a candidate vaccine by company Micro Genesis in March.

Now, Dr. Preecha said, the

army is negotiating with Biocine, another candidate vaccine manufacturer, to run tests on army conscripts in northern provinces, where the AIDS rate is the highest in the country.

Dr. Preecha, who has followed the Red Cross tests, said the military wanted to test a vaccine for the E-strain of HIV, the most common type in Thailand and prevalent among heterosexuals.

"We are pushing for that," he said. Army conscripts are in the high-risk category in Thailand because of the likelihood they will visit prostitutes.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is reviewing a proposal to test a third candidate vaccine, from Genetech, on intravenous drug users in Bangkok, according to officials at WHO and Mahidol University.

"We would be looking at a different vaccine and a different strain of HIV," Mahidol Vice President Prasert Thongcharoen said.

He said he hoped WHO officials would make a decision when he flies to Geneva for meetings in October.

Physicians in several countries have been attempting to isolate a vaccine to attack HIV cells, much as common vaccines for polio and hepatitis do.

While the United States has been the most active in testing, some developing countries with high infection rates have entered the race for a vaccine as well.

Thailand's National Commission on AIDS estimates that as many as 600,000 people are HIV-positive or suffer from full-blown acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. a - A child has 20 teeth.
b - An adult has 32 teeth
c - A horse 40.
d - A dog 42.
e - A cat 30.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2. To a bishop begin "My Lord Bishop" and end "I remain, my Lord Bishop, Your Lordship most obedient servant."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

3. — The LITHOSPHERE is the earth's crust.
— The TROPOSPHERE is the lower layer of the atmosphere up to about seven miles, where the temperature falls as the height increases.
— The STRATOSPHERE extends from about seven to fifty miles up.
— The IONOSPHERE is above that.
— The HYDROSPHERE is the watery part of the earth's crust.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4. Mexico City is not on a river.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES LINE UP

FAILURE,
REMAINS,
EMPTY,
EXPENSE,
DOORMAN,
OCEANIC,
MANLIKE.

The anarowed words are:

FREEDOM,
LATERAL,
ESSENCE.

Najah, the mother of four, had told Ayed that the man he found hiding in her bedroom was a stranger who had been harassing her. Ayed did not believe her. After he failed to stab the stranger with the knife he was carrying, he went to his house in Hashemi to get his father's guns. The gun was nowhere to be found, so he came back and "cleansed the honour" of his family with a knife.

"I started stabbing her as she begged me not to kill her," says Ayed, 23. "Her four children started sobbing over their mother's body and I left the house."

(Continued from page 1)

penalty." Another paragraph states that "he who discovers his wife, or one of his female relatives with another in an adulterous situation, and he kills, wounds or injures one or both of them, benefits from a reduction of penalty."

Article 98 states: "He who commits a crime in a fit of fury caused by an unjust and dangerous act on the part of the victim benefits from a reduction of penalty."

On the other hand, if situations were reversed and a woman found her husband with another

woman, there is nothing she could do. If she kills her husband, she would not benefit from any reduction of penalty, and would receive at least three years in prison.

According to lawyer and civil rights activist Asma Khader, in most cases, accused men benefit from the leniency of these laws and are sentenced only to six months to three years in prison for their crime.

Feminist Lama Abu Odeh, who wrote her doctoral thesis on "Honour Crimes and the Construction of Gender in Arab Society," adds that suspects in crimes of honour seem to always receive sympathy

from various sectors of society, with provisions in the penal code helping to reduce the penalty when they are found guilty.

Dr. Shtwei says that some families assign the task of honour killings to a male relative under 18 years of age, knowing that he would be dealt with as a minor by the criminal justice system and thus would receive the reduced penalties applicable to juvenile delinquents.

"In such cases the law remands the youth who

committed the murder to a rehabilitation centre, and when he reaches the age of 18, he is set free," Dr. Shtwei explains.

Minors who are sent to rehabilitation centres continue their education and learn a profession. They are later released with no criminal record.

Many of those who commit such crimes hide behind Islamic law to defend their actions. Yet, Islamic law does not provide any justification for killing a woman in the name of family hon-

our, according to Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi.

"No one fully understands the Sharia, and many women are unjustly killed," Sheikh Tamimi says. "Not every incident is a case of adultery, and killings are not always justified," he adds.

Islam never permits killings before the law of the religion is applied, Sheikh Tamimi explains. "In Sharia the killer is killed, but since the Sharia law is not fully im-

plemented under Jordanian law, the Sharia cannot interfere in such cases to implement its own rulings," Sheikh Tamimi adds.

According to Sharia, killing is allowed only in the case of married couples, and there must be four witnesses to an alleged act of adultery, explains Sheikh Tamimi. He also stresses that Islamic Sharia, and not the individuals involved, is the ultimate judge.

Nawal Fakhouri, the first woman to be elected to the Shura Council of the Isla-

When Kifaya, a veiled high-school student from the Hashemi Al Shamali district of Amman, had earlier been raped by her brother, she was threatened with death if she exposed him. She was then swiftly married off to a man 34 years her senior. Khaled killed her when she was abandoned by her husband.

Wielding a bloody knife while Kifaya lay dead on the floor, Khaled triumphantly announced: "I have cleansed my family's honour."

And his family and neighbours began to ululate. They fired off gun shots in celebration.

Following is a list of the 'crimes of honour' committed in the Kingdom since the beginning of the year.

Jan. 1 — An unidentified divorced woman was killed by her brother in Zarqa with a sharp object for "suspicious behaviour." The victim was struck several times on the head. She died instantly.

Feb. 5 — A 21-year-old woman identified as J.J.H and her alleged lover were shot and killed by her brother, 25, for alleged adultery.

Feb. 8 — A 35-year-old Zarqa woman, identified as S.I.A., was shot and killed by her uncle. The woman received eight bullet wounds.

Feb. 18 — Two sisters from Zarqa, Khawla, 33, and Amneh, 27, were shot and killed by their brother for "immoral behaviour." Each woman was shot at least four times.

April 3 — A 37-year-old divorced woman and mother of 14 children was shot and killed by her brother, 42, in Jerash because "someone told him that his sister was seeing a man."

April 15 — A 20-year-old divorced Zarqa woman was stabbed and killed by her brother for alleged adultery. The victim, Khawla A.K., received a 15-centimetre-deep wound to the neck and another to the chest.

May 7 — A 15-year-old shepherd girl named Khawla was shot and killed by her brother, 25. The brother received an anonymous letter accusing his sister of having an affair. Urged by his father without investigating the source of the letter or its contents, the young man killed his sister.

May 8 — A 23-year-old divorced Irbid woman named Aisha was stabbed to death by her brother. Aisha's brother was told by relatives that his sister was having an affair with someone.

May 31 — A 16-year-old woman named Kifaya from Jahal Hashemi Al Shamali had her throat slit by her

brother, 32, because she was raped by a younger brother. The older brother was encouraged by relatives to "cleanse the family honour."

Aug. 1 — A 23-year-old woman in Ajloun received one bullet to the heart after being shot by her brother because she was raped by a stranger. Her brother felt he had to kill her to "cleanse the family's honour." After Fatma was killed, her family members claimed that she was mentally ill.

Aug. 8 — A 25-year-old woman in Salt was killed by her husband for alleged adultery. Hamda received one bullet to the genitalia because her husband was told by friends that she was seeing another man.

Sept. 16 — An 18-year-old physically handicapped girl was killed by her brother in Jiza because she was pregnant from a man who had promised to marry her. Jazia was stabbed in the neck and several parts of her body and was shot several times by her brother.

Three additional "crimes of honour" were reported, but the Jordan Times was unable to obtain any information regarding the incidents and the victims. In most cases reported, police declined to comment on the incidents, and in some cases they would not confirm the killings.

■ Following is a list of the numbers of reported murders, including "crimes of honour" in the past 8 years:

Year	Total crimes	Honour crimes	Percentages
1986	66	22	33.3
1987	69	18	26.5
1988	76	23	30.2
1989	62	20	32.2
1990	82	22	26.2
1991	76	24	31.5
1992	93	27	32.9
1993	96	33	34.4

Israel, PLO disagree on candidates

(Continued from page 1)

Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel is laying down guidelines but these are not "pre-conditions," he said.

Gen. Rothschild has singled out the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, who on Monday said they would join the elections if the elected council would have the power to cancel the declaration of principles on autonomy.

Dr. Erakat challenged the Israeli position.

"We could also ask the Israeli side to put laws that would force the Israelis to sign an agreement and pledge support" for the autonomy accord before taking part in Israeli parliamentary elections, he said.

"But these conditions really are not acceptable and not even logical. The elections are a tool for democracy and this makes it a sin to bar any Palestinian from the elections on the basis of his political viewpoints."

But Gen. Rothschild noted that Israel had barred two extremist parties, Kach and Kahane Hat, from elections in 1992.

He also defended himself against Palestinian charges of adopting an undemocratic stance.

"Our refusal to allow any group to stand in the elections which is calling for the destruction of the state of Israel does not harm the democratic process of the elections," he told Israeli military radio from Cairo. On the positive front, Dr. Erakat and Gen. Rothschild acknowledged that the negotiators had moved ahead on procedural issues.

On a population register for the West Bank, the Palestinian negotiator said, the Israelis agreed to hand over information necessary for a survey there ahead of elections.

Supreme court judge resigns

(Continued from page 1)

found himself alone among the veteran judges still in office and therefore he was requesting to be retired too.

Mr. Shammout paid tribute to a long line of veteran judges and lawyers including Musa Saket and Najib Al Rashdan, who, he said, had enriched the judiciary with their ideas and promoted the court's work with their efforts over the years.

Mr. Shammout, who has served as judge at the various courts including the Court of Cassation, was appointed head of the Supreme Court by the Council of Ministers in 1989.

In his letter to the justice minister, Mr. Shammout said that he was still able to serve the judiciary by returning to his law practice.

'Israeli-proposed deals no answer to border demands'

(Continued from page 1)

going to be that hard; we are going to listen to them," he said.

Dr. Majali also disclosed that Israel had "accepted and admitted" that Jordan had sovereignty over the Rottenberg plot, which lies near the convergence of the rivers Jordan and Yarmouk.

Dr. Muasher said Jordanian and Israeli experts were engaged in a "continuous process" of surveying and related studies as part of determining the borders.

The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday that the experts surveyed the area around the Himmeh springs in the north and used satellite pictures to "get an accurate view of the region."

Jordan is not claiming any land near the springs, but the spot could turn out to be a thorny issue since it is claimed by both Syria and the Palestinians, experts say.

The Post also reported that World Bank officials recently toured the Jordan Valley region to assess at first hand the possibilities of helping to finance various joint projects.

One of those projects is a \$60 million plan to "organise the disposal of sewage along both sides of the River (Jordan) and clean up the Jordan itself as a prelude to developing tourism projects in the area," the Post said.

Meanwhile, a proposal to build a pipe-line cum-canal to link the Red Sea with the Dead Sea and use its outputs to address water and energy problems of the area appeared to have sparked an Israeli inflight.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal as calling for one body to deal with the project and submit recommendations on a "purely professional basis, without political considerations."

The paper quoted Mr.

Shahal of accusing the government of overlooking that it had agreed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to study a similar project to link the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea and agreeing to the Jordanian Red-Dead Sea project.

"Unfortunately, four or five government ministries are dealing with the Dead Sea project, and every day a new message goes out from one or the other," Mr. Shahal was quoted as saying. "Israel agreed with the Palestinians to examine the Katif route (from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea). They forgot that they had agreed on something with the Palestinians and agreed to examine the (Wadi Araba) 'Peace Valley' route with the Jordanians."

The Mediterranean-Dead Sea project was an Israeli proposal, which was countered by the Jordanian proposal in the early 80s. The Israeli proposal was reportedly shelved in the mid-80s following Jordan's objections as a riparian of the Dead Sea and the alternate proposal the Kingdom drew up.

But the Israelis revived the Med-Dead project in their negotiations with the Palestinians and included a clear reference to it the declaration of principles signed in Washington in September 1993. However, it later informed the multilateral working group on water resources that it had no intention to revive the proposal.

According to Mr. Shahal, as quoted by the Post, Israeli government officials are considering different water options for different reasons. "The prime minister's water adviser, Noah Kinari, and the agriculture minister are talking about the (northern) valleys option. There are also bodies checking different options for private commercial reasons, like a German group checking a pipeline instead of

a canal," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Shahal asserted that Israel had so far invested \$20 million in public money via the Dead Sea Canal Company under the auspices of the energy ministry. The Post reported:

Mr. Shahal said the Dead Sea Canal had returned to the agenda due to the political changes which made it possible and because it is the only project which can supply desalinated water in quantities to meet the needs of Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israel at a reasonable price.

He noted, however, that Israel, which has access to two coasts, does not need the canal or pipeline as much as Jordan.

Shahal also said the Gulf states have shown "great interest" in using the oil ports at Ashkelon, Haifa, and Eilat. The Gulf states are also interested in storing oil here, and Israel's Oil Services Company is dealing with the requests, he said.

The lifting of the secondary boycott and the progress in relations with Qatar have helped bring the possibility of natural gas imports from there much closer.

The gas would primarily be used to produce electricity and serve as an additional supply to Egyptian gas.

There have been no direct contact with the Saudi Arabian government on oil imports, but private businessmen in Jordan have raised the possibility, Shahal said.

He said the ministry is continuing to investigate alternative sources of energy, including solar, oil shales, and wind power. The ministry is not considering nuclear energy at this stage, he said.

Shahal said he opposed Environment Minister Yossi Sarid's project for large national landfills which do not include the option of refuse combustion as an energy source.

Murder in the name of honour

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مركز التجارة

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Nov 2, 1994	Nov 5, 1994
Sterling Pound	1.5815	1.5812
Deutsche Mark	1.5457	1.5465
Swiss Franc	1.2845	1.2855
French Franc	5.2565	5.2672
Japanese Yen	99.65	99.58
European Currency Unit	1.2900	1.2900

USD Per SAR
European Opening: 4.00 SAR (1994)

European Currency Rates Date: 5/10/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.37	5.56	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.31	5.81	6.25	7.00
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.12	5.45
Swiss Franc	3.75	4.00	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.75	6.51
Japanese Yen	2.36	2.15	2.05	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.30	5.54	6.09	6.75

Interbank bid rates for American & European 1 - 1000s, 1000s and 1000s

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1015	1.1065
Deutsche Mark	0.4505	0.4520
Swiss Franc	0.5255	0.5260
French Franc	0.1318	0.1325
Japanese Yen	0.0095	0.0098
Deutch Guilder	0.1020	0.1030
Swedish Krona	0.0447	0.0450
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0450
Belgian Franc	0.0447	0.0450

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 5/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.3520	1.3550
Lebanese Lira	0.0210	0.0212
Saudi Riyal	0.1655	0.1670
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.5150	0.5170
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1925
Egyptian Pound	0.0090	0.0092
Omani Riyal	1.7810	1.7870
UAE Dirham	0.1892	0.1902
Greek Drachma	0.00750	0.00760
Cypriot Pound	1.5180	1.5190

Per 100

Two largest U.S. health care groups merge

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AFP) — The two largest U.S. chains of health care providers have announced that they plan to merge into a single \$5.4 billion operation.

Columbia-HCA HealthCare Corp. announced late Tuesday that it would buy HealthTrust Inc. for \$3.6 billion in stock and take over \$1.8 billion in debt owed by its former rival.

The resulting entity will have total revenues of more than \$15 billion, manage 311 hospitals and clinics and employ 170,000 people.

The two companies said in a joint press release that the merger would allow them to control their costs by up to \$125 million a year.

Columbia-HCA is based in Louisville, Kentucky and manages 195 hospitals and clinics with 44,000 beds.

Asian capital market to absorb bigger share of regional financing

MADRID (AFP) — Asian capital markets could eventually account for 25 per cent of all regional financing as new centres emerge, the head of the private-sector arm of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has said.

"We are very optimistic about the future they can contribute in finance," said Tomoo Hayakawa, president of Asian Finance and Investment Corp. (AFIC).

Mr. Hayakawa, speaking at a seminar on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) here, said Hong Kong, Singapore and Taipei might soon be followed by Bangkok and Seoul as important centres for Asian borrowers.

The AFIC chief noted that much of the short-term paper issued by Asian borrowers currently ended up in the

hands of investors based in Europe, the United States, Japan and the Middle East.

But if regional markets keep developing, with such innovations as the ADB's recent dragon bond issues targeted at Asian institutional investors, Asia could account for between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of all flows.

Mr. Hayakawa noted, however, that capital markets were still in their infancy in some Asian countries. "Some countries don't know how to use their money. Some even buy jet fighters," the former Japanese banker said.

In China, for example, funding local projects can prove difficult. "The money is there, the project is there but the money doesn't get recycled between the two," he said, referring to inadequate international accounting standards and disclosure requirements in China.

The AFIC chief meanwhile warned Chinese borrowers against getting too greedy, noting that China's finance ministry had tapped the Hong Kong and Singapore markets for \$300 million in October last year. Before that they tapped the European market and later had a bond

issue in New York.

"They probably have very easy access to the market," he said. "The point is they push too much they might have difficulties financing in the future. They have to respect the market."

Mr. Hayakawa said that AFIC, which like the ADB is based in Manila, might be ready to launch its first "rainbow bond" late next year, aimed at providing borrowers with funds in seven local Asian currencies.

Among countries whose currencies might be included in such an issue are Indonesia, India, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Pakistan, he said.

Mr. Hayakawa said AFIC had "already started" preparations for such a seven-currency bond issue of up to \$300 million. "The earliest possible time is this time next year," he said.

He said there was strong

demand for local currencies among foreign companies with domestic operations rather than export businesses in Asia.

"They always say they need local currency," he said, adding that demand was strong for both short-term funds and long-term financing.

Allowing foreign investors to borrow in local currency is "quite an important issue for authorities," he said.

Mr. Hayakawa noted that because of the relatively small size of some markets, prospective tranches of the rainbow bond should be limited to between \$20 million and \$50 million when AFIC makes its first issue.

The ADB agreed to set up AFIC in 1989 to provide equity finance and long-term debt financing to the private sector in Asia. The agency is owned by the ADB and several private financial institutions, mainly Japanese.

Price wars hit Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Price wars, a new phenomenon in Japan, have reached service stations around Tokyo with some offering petrol at a 20 per cent discount, media reports said Tuesday.

Tokorozawa service station's 12 petrol pumps in Saitama district have been operating non-stop for 14 hours a day since petrol prices dropped to 100 yen (one U.S. dollar) per litre, compared to 115 yen elsewhere, said the Mainichi Shinbun.

"Our business is seven to eight times what it was before we went discount," said the service station boss. Other service stations have also begun to drop prices, cutting their profit margins to between five and six per cent. Many food distributors began discounting in major cities a few months ago, taking advantage of the rise in the value of the yen to sell imported goods such as beer, fruit juices and mineral water at lower prices.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the U.S. dollar, as posted on the London Foreign Exchange and Bullion Markets Wednesday.

Currency	U.S. \$100 costs	Canadian dollar
U.S. \$100 costs	1.3450	1.3450
Deutsche mark	1.5360	1.5360
Dutch guilder	1.7215	1.7215
Swiss franc	1.2820	1.2820
Belgian franc	31.80	31.80
French franc	5.1815	5.1815
Italian lire	1572.75	1572.75
Japanese yen	99.65	99.65
Swedish crown	7.5710	7.5710
Norwegian crown	6.7580	6.7580
Danish crown	6.0760	6.0760
One sterling	1.5180	1.5180
One ounce of gold	\$292.00	\$292.00

Europeans seek to recapture sports car market

PARIS (R) — European firms are launching an assault at the Paris car show in a bid to regain control of their highly profitable coupe and sports car sector, long dominated by the Japanese.

As Europe pulls out of recession, local manufacturers have a golden opportunity to win back sales, industry analysts say.

Japanese manufacturers are under pressure generally because the strength of the yen has made their prices less competitive.

On Tuesday, General Motors Europe's Opel launched its Tigra coupe, while

Fiat's Alfa Romeo took a twin-track approach, unveiling its new Spider sports car and an Alfa coupe.

The biennial Paris car show will open to the public from Thursday through Oct. 16.

Industry analysts say European manufacturers are increasingly able to compete with their Japanese rivals on price as well as producing cars with powerful showroom appeal.

"The Europeans are claiming back this sector from the Japanese," says Peter Schmidt, joint managing director of Britain's Automotive Industry Data (AID).

Japanese cars like the Nissan 100NX, the Honda Prelude and CRX, the Toyota Celica and the Mazda MX-3 and MX-6 have claimed more than 30 per cent of the coupe and sports car sector, which scored sales of 220,380 even in recession-hit 1993 and a peak of 284,340 in 1992, according to figures from AID.

Not that the Europeans have been without success. BMW's "M3" series coupes and Cabriolets were number one seller in 1993 with 68,000, followed by the Opel Vauxhall Calibra with 32,830.

But Japanese makes have led the way with a variety of innovative, affordable and attractive models and along the way forced some British makers of sports cars off the road.

"The Japanese had this sector largely to themselves in the late 80s and early 90s and the Europeans realised that this was something they have to be in," said Peter Cope, associate editor of London's Economist Intelligence Unit.

"They can produce something more interesting and now technology allows them to produce them profitably," he said, while adding: "It's a very discretionary sector — as soon as there's recession, it gets hammered."

The Japanese share of the overall west European car market slipped to 10.9 per cent in the first eight months of 1994 from 12.5 per cent a year earlier.

AID's Schmidt said European firms had made great progress in moving towards Japanese efficiency levels and could now often undercut Japanese pricing.

Reed Elsevier buys Mead Data Central

LONDON (AFP) — The Anglo-Dutch publishing group Reed Elsevier Wednesday announced it had agreed to buy the U.S. legal and business publisher Mead Data Central (MDC) from Mead Corp. for \$1.5 billion.

The acquisition will include the Michie Corp., a U.S. state law publisher.

Reed Elsevier said the transaction is expected to be completed by Dec. 31 and is conditional upon U.S. anti-trust clearance and "certain third party consents." The move is expected to enhance earnings for the company.

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ASIAN GAMES

Chinese get a run for their money

HIROSHIMA (AP) — China snapped up the lion's share of the gold for the third straight day at the Asian Games. But for the first time, thanks to South Korea, it was close.

With five more swimming events, two almost sure things in diving and 10 gymnastics golds in the offing, however, China was poised to pull away once again Thursday.

The Korean team, hitherto a sleeper in Hiroshima gold race, on Wednesday picked up a half dozen titles, just two golds shy of the mighty Chinese in the day's count.

Ji Sang-Joon broke the monopoly on gold by China and Japan in the pool as he won the men's 200-metre backstroke in 2 minutes, 0.65 seconds, breaking the 4-year-old games record of 2:03.59.

South Korea found three more golds in Greco-Roman wrestling. Sim Kwon-Ho beat Iran's Reza Aimekhah Asil at 48 kilograms. Kim Young-II defeated Grigori Pulyaev of Uzbekistan at 68 kilograms.

And Song Sung-Il dazed Vitalii Letkine of Kazakhstan at 100 kilograms. Koreans won the top two

places in men's sabre fencing, with Kim Sang-Wook edging teammate Lee Hyo-Kun 15-13 in the final.

But howling was where they came closest to perfection.

Kim Sook-Young came just one pin short of a perfect 300 in the fifth game of a record-setting day. She knocked down 1,347 pins for six games, demolishing the games record of 1,270 set by Olivia Bong Coo of the Philippines in 1978.

In men's, Taiwan's Lin Han-Chen rolled a six-game total of 1,310 to win his country's first Asian Games gold in 24 years.

Taiwan had returned to the games in 1990 after being kept out for 20 years in a dispute with China. Both sides claim to be China's sole legitimate government, but Taiwan was allowed back in after agreeing to compete under the name Chinese Taipei.

Even with the Korean surge, China held a commanding lead in the gold tally, with 28, Japan, which won five golds Wednesday, had 13.

Two of China's latest golds

were in the men's and women's all-around gymnastics, which could hint of more gold to come when the men's and women's apparatus events are contested Thursday.

The Chinese women's swimming team was, again, invincible — except against each other. He Chong beat teammate Lu Bin in the 100-metre backstroke, Zhou Guanbin outswam teammate Yang Aihua in the 400-metre freestyle and China left Japan more than three seconds behind in the 400-metre freestyle relay.

And in what could be taken as a disappointing showing, for China anyway, women's weightlifting yielded only one world record. Zhang Xiaoli's 237.5-kilogramme (522.5-pound) total in the 83-kilogramme class.

It was the sixth world record for China in nine lifting events. China's non-record setting winners Wednesday were Hua Jia at 76 kilograms and world champion Li Yajuan in the over 83-kilogramme class.

Host Japan, which is hoping to use its hometown advantage to edge South

Korea in the gold count, also continued to capitalise on karate, a sport new to the games, to boost its tally.

Japan won all three golds at stake Wednesday, but saw its hopes of a sweep ruined when fighters from Syria and Iran won the 65- and 70-kilogramme divisions Tuesday.

Though Japan ended up with nine of the 11 golds available, the rest of the karate medals went to a surprisingly diverse field — 15 countries in all. For one of them, the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan, it was the first Asian Games medal ever.

South Korea and China opted out of the karate competition to focus on their own brand of martial arts later in the games, taekwondo for Korea and wushu for China.

Japan, which already had won the equestrian team dressage event, placed 1-2 in individual competition Wednesday. Its other gold came in the pool, when Yukihiro Matsushita edged Kazakhstan's Serguei Borisenko and Alexei Egorov in the men's 100-metre freestyle.

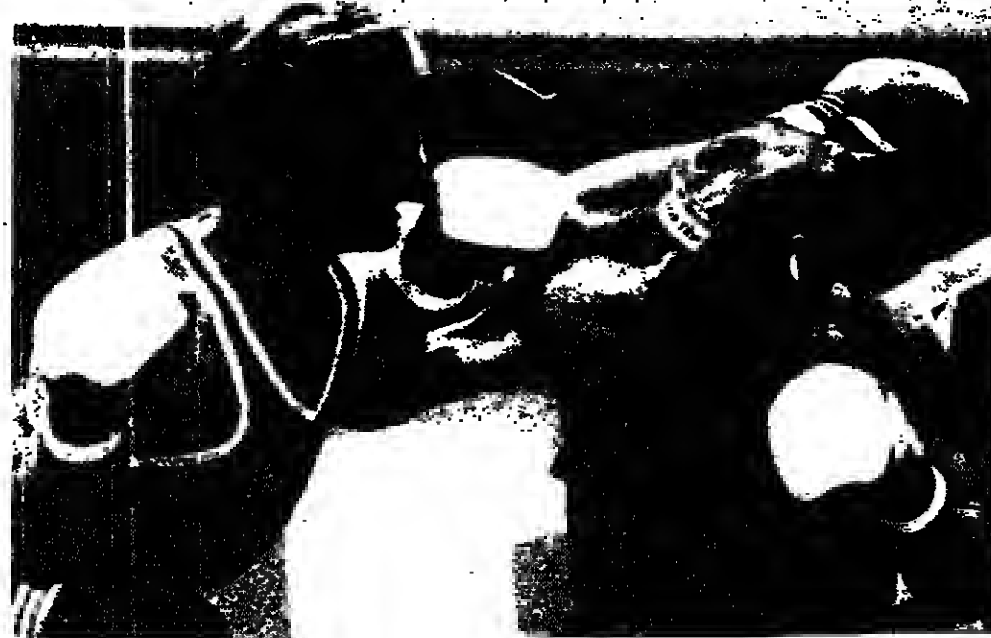


Photo above, Romeo Brin of the Philippines (right) applies an upper cut on Pejman Chalaki of Iran (left) Tuesday during their bout in the 60-kilogramme class boxing event at the Asian Games. Brin defeated Chalaki 13-8 on points. Below, silver medalist Arash Javanshir of

Iran (left) kisses the Koran of gold medalist Rafat Selti Krad of Syria during the medal ceremony for the 65-kilogramme class individual kumite karate event. Krad beat Javanshir 3-1 to take the gold (AFP photo)



Video evidence for decisions by referees to be studied by FIFA

ZURICH, Switzerland (R) — The controversial idea of using video evidence to challenge refereeing decisions is to be studied by soccer's law-making body, the International Football Association (FIFA) board.

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said in an editorial in the monthly FIFA newsletter Wednesday that the board would examine the subject at its next meeting in Ayrshire, Scotland March 4.

FIFA allowed the use of video evidence in disciplinary cases for the first time in this year's World Cup finals in the United States but would not permit its use to challenge match officials' decisions during games.

Blatter indicated FIFA would be unlikely to support

any extension of its use. "By introducing so-called video judgments, FIFA has started to tread potentially explosive ground," he wrote.

"The growing trend to undermine the referee's authority by referring to television recordings is a source of concern to the board ... whether video judgments that go further than FIFA is prepared to allow really help football is a moot point."

In one of the most controversial incidents at the World Cup finals, Italian defender Mauro Tassotti was banned for eight matches for elbowing Spain's Luis Enrique in the face after television film was studied of an incident neither seen nor sanctioned by the referee.

In another ruling, Nigerian midfielder Sunday Oliseh had a yellow card cancelled after video replays showed it was a case of mistaken identity.

Blatter said taking video evidence further posed more questions than it could solve. Video often failed to offer conclusive proof in penalty controversies, he argued, and advocates of its use overlooked the fact that if any of the referee's decisions could be challenged, all would have to come under the camera's scrutiny, even mundane throw-ins.

Blatter said the board, composed of FIFA members and representatives of the British associations, as founders of the sport, would aim to set clear legal guidelines on the use of video at its March meeting.

Samaranch defends China from drug allegations

HIROSHIMA (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch came strongly to the defence of China's world record athletes Wednesday, saying they did not take drugs and sport in China was "very clean."

Speaking one day after China's women weightlifters set 14 world records at the Asian Games here, Samaranch told Reuters he was not surprised a nation with a 1.3 billion population would reach the top ranks of international sport.

"I'm sure Chinese sport is very clean," Samaranch said in an interview when asked if drugs were behind the weightlifters' success and equally dramatic world records set by China's women swimmers and middle distance runners earlier this year.

China's world record-breaking women swimmers and middle distance runners have also encountered suspicion from some Western coaches.

But Samaranch, in Hiroshima to attend the Asian Games, vowed there would be no let up in the campaign by the IOC to keep drugs out of sport.

Samaranch said the turnaround in the IOC's fight-back against drug use was in 1988 when world sprint champion Ben Jonson was suspended.

It was a turning point.

Since Seoul, we are not alone ... even governments help us," he said.

But he was quick to admit that the campaign still faced many obstacles.

"The war is not over, but we have won many, many battles," he said, adding that the IOC is now trying to get disputes with athletes punished for doping from taking their cases to court.

The head of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) also in the past 24 hours gave China's competitors a clean bill of health.

IWF President Gottfried Schödl revealed there was a surprise drug check on the new superwomen of China two months ago and they would be checked again this month.

"We have checked them," Schödl told Reuters.

None of the tests have returned a positive test for performance enhancing drugs, said Schödl, who is from Austria.

But asked if he was sure the Chinese women were not using drugs Schödl replied: "It is very difficult to say yes."

He said much of the suspicion against China was due to envy and doubted if Beijing could have developed anything which was not known to the rest of the world.

Chinese weightlifting coach Jiang Tao says the Chinese success is due to his country's huge population

and an unmatched system of coaching.

He says the Chinese government has strict checks to prevent weightlifters on dope from competing.

"We are innocent. I repeat we are innocent," he said.

Meanwhile, the Asian Games doping commission has given all the athletes they tested on the first day of competition, including China's world record weightlifters, a clean bill of health.

Authoritative sources said Wednesday: "Everyone tested negative and there were no problems."

The winners of each event and three others selected at random undergo the tests each day.

The "A" samples of the tests are flown to an IOC accredited laboratory in Tokyo where they are tested for banned performance enhancing substances. The results are flown back within 24 hours to Hiroshima for further action on anyone who tests positive.

But the sources said the results of the tests conducted separately by the International Amateur Swimming Federation (FINA) five days ago on China's swimmers, were yet to be made available to the drug testing authorities at the Asian Games.

FINA testers conducted a surprise check on almost the entire squad of China's world beating women swimmers, just two days before Sunday opening of the games.

France chooses World Cup stadium

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur selected an ultra-modern, oval-shaped design Wednesday for an 80,000 all-seater stadium on the outskirts of Paris to stage the 1998 World Cup final.

Balladur's decision, announced by government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy, cleared the way for building to start on the project at St. Denis, just north of the French capital.

The prime minister selected the cheaper of two options from a short list drawn up by a special jury. The alternative was a rectangular design.

Sarkozy said the oval stadium, designed by the architects consortium of MacCary, Ziblena, Constantini and Regimbal, would fit well into the environment of the area and was the best option for the World Cup.

The most spectacular feature of the stadium, which will cost two billion francs (\$350 million), is a huge saucer ring-shaped canvas roof covering the stands, supported by 20 mast-like pillars, each 49 metres high.

The futuristic stadium, which will be used both for major soccer and rugby matches after the World Cup, can also be converted into an athletics arena.

Marketing deal saves Bangkok Games

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) struck a \$50 million deal with the Olympic Games' marketing agents here Wednesday which saved the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games.

"All the problems are solved now. This agreement will give us the insurance we need," OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah of Kuwait said.

Bangkok, which needs to renovate most of the stadium used in the 1978 games, had been plagued by financial problems.

ISL, a Lausanne-based company which handles marketing for the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the Japanese advertising firm Dentsu, which holds a majority stake in ISL, are to make a down payment of five million dollars to the Bangkok organisers.

They have guaranteed \$15 million in gross revenue and set a target of a minimum of \$50 million.

The deal allows for 80 per cent of net revenues to go to Bangkok, 10 per cent to National Olympic Committees and 10 per cent to the OCA.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch of Spain, whose organisation revealed in August that its gross revenue from television rights and marketing for 1993-96 came to \$2.5 billion, sat in on the deal.

Thailand National Olympic Committee Secretary General Charoek Chullasapya denied that Bangkok had been near to pulling out.

"There was never any real danger of the games not being staged in Bangkok but the principle of this idea is fine. It will certainly create openings and help the financial problems."

An OCA source said they owed a debt to Thailand.

"They came to the rescue of the Asian Games in 1970 and 1978 when they stood in for first Seoul and then Pakistan," he said.

No decision was taken over cutting the size of the games. The OCA executive board was considering dropping up to a dozen sports for 1998.

Fusan, where the 1988 Olympic yachting regatta was held, has emerged as frontrunner to stage the 2002 Asian Games.

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Al Hussein to have decisive match in 6th week of soccer tournament

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein and Al Wihdat Thursday enter the sixth week of the first division soccer championship sharing the lead with 10 points in the overall standings of the Kingdom's top 12 teams.

The upcoming week's most important match will be the clash of third-place Al Ramtha and Al Hussein who are in first place on goal difference. Both teams, in addition to Al Wihdat, have not lost a match so far.

Federation Shield champion Al Hussein continued their impressive run after defeating newcomers Kufroum 5-2, while the fifth week witnessed the first goal scored against Al Wihdat's in their 3-1 win over lowly Shabab Al Hussein.

Titleholders, Al Faisali, who are currently at a disappointing fourth place after their goalless draw against Al Ramtha, are expected to

have a fairly easy match against newcomers Al Karneel.

Al Faisali's camp seems to be having a series of obstacles — including lack of substitutes, suspensions and an inconsistent form that is relatively new to the Kingdom's top team seeking their 26th first division title.

The Kingdom's champions last year ended the season by adding quite a few records to Jordanian sports' archives.

Al Faisali won the title with a remarkable 57 goals cancelling the previous record of 47 by Al Ramtha in 1981.

They had also maintained the most consistent form among the 12 teams winning 17 of their 22 matches drawing in two and losing only to Al Hussein.

During 1993, Al Faisali also won the Cup Winner's Cup and the Jordan Cup leaving only the Federation Shield to Al Ramtha.

The team's ace striker Jirves Tadros also added

another record by winning the top scorer award with 19 goals.

Al Wihdat, whose last major title was the Cup Winner's Cup in 1992 and last won the first division in 1991, will this week have a chance to strengthen their position when they face 11th placed Al Jeel.

Al Qadissieh who maintained fourth position throughout most of the competition last year are now in eighth place after only one win and three defeats. They will next face Al Jazireh and attempt to gain two points to move away from the grim last four places threatened with relegation.

According to a recent analysis of this year's competition by Al Ra'i Arabic daily, the goal scoring average is quite encouraging at 3.1 per match. A total of 93 goals have been scored so far in the past five weeks of action with leaders Al Hussein alone scoring 20.

Kufroum's Yousef

Obeidat is the top scorer so far with 7 goals.

Meanwhile, the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), has imposed heavy fines and penalties to many of the 145 teams competing in the second, third and fourth divisions.

The most drastic measure was suspending three of Al Fuhais' players, and giving Al Fuhais a final warning after the players and team officials attacked the referee of their match with Al Salt. In addition, the federation decided to after the match result to 3-0 in favour of Al Salt.

Al Fuhais were also fined a total of JD 1700 and the club chairman and team manager were barred from attending their team's matches for two years.

On Tuesday, Al Fuhais asked the JSF to defer its latest "harsh decisions" and announced that it might otherwise pull out of the second division competition and cancel the game at the club.

Hingis wins in professional debut

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP)

— Martina Hingis, the 14-year-old Swiss schoolgirl hailed as the world's brightest young tennis star, burst onto the professional circuit Tuesday with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over an American more than twice her age.

The pony-tailed youngster, who celebrated her birthday last week, showed some early jitters but went on to defeat Patty Fendick and overshadow the presence of another Martina in the \$750,000 Zurich Indoors tournament — Martina Navratilova.

"The first time is always difficult," Hingis said after advancing to the second round. "But I didn't have anything to lose and I enjoyed it toward the end especially."

Hingis lost her opening serve and first game to Fendick, a 29-year-old Californian, setting the trend for a rash of dropped service games in the first set.

But she recovered, and, to the cheers of the capacity crowd of 4,000, she breezed to a 5-0 advantage in the second set before losing three straight games.

"I was a little bit nervous, but it was the same thing at Wimbledon and the French Open," she said.

Hingis, who was born in Czechoslovakia, won the French Open junior girls' title in 1993 at age 12, breaking Jennifer Capriati's record as the youngest winner ever.

She became the first girl at Roland Garros to win two straight titles with her victory this year, and also carried off the Wimbledon girls' crown.

She was the top seed at last month's U.S. Open but was



14-year-old Swiss tennis player Martina Hingis Fendick during their first round match in Zurich Tuesday. Hingis beat Fendick 6-4, 6-3 (AFP photo)

defeated in the girls' final by Meilen Tu of the United States.

This was billed as the day of the two Martinas, but Hingis clearly was the top item, not Navratilova, who is leaving tennis this year and at 37 is the oldest woman on the tour.

"You wouldn't be here if Martina wasn't playing," Navratilova said. "People didn't come to see me play, they've been watching me for 30 years."

The top seed at Zurich, Navratilova, earlier defeated Ann Grossman 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

Hingis' mother Melanie, a former Czech tennis star, christened her daughter after Navratilova and then put a tennis racket in her hands when she was 2 years old. Fendick, ranked no. 41 in

the world, likened the encounter against Hingis to playing Capriati when she first joined the circuit four years ago.

"She's a good player," Fendick said. "I don't subscribe to the idea that you have to be 16 or 17 to play on the women's tour."

The women's tour recently decided to restrict the number of tournaments in which a 14-year-old can play. However, the new rule took effect in January and Hingis gave no bearing on Hingis.

The pro debut of Hingis comes not long after the troubles of Capriati surfaced. Capriati was arrested last May for marijuana possession and then spent nearly one month in a drug rehabilitation centre. She has said private and professional

pressures became too much to bear.

Capriati hoped to make her comeback in Zurich after dropping off the tour last year, but then pulled out because of a grain injury.

Hingis and her mother, who acts as coach, have repeatedly brushed off comparisons with Capriati.

"I think in her family she had problems and that's not the case with us," the mother said. "And there's much more pressure to win in the United States because millions are involved. In Europe it's only thousands."

Hingis moved to Switzerland when she was 7 years old after her mother divorced her Czech husband and married a Swiss businessman. She won her first international tennis tournament at age 11.

Korea, Russia advance in volleyball tourney

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

— Russia easily defeated Germany while South Korea needed four sets to beat Bulgaria Tuesday, as both winners advanced to the quarter-finals of the 13th volleyball men's world championship.

Russia, ranked sixth in the world, beat the Germans 3-0 (15-3, 15-9, 16-4) and South Korea topped Bulgaria 3-1 (17-15, 15-7, 11-15, 15-2).

The Netherlands eliminated Japan 3-0 (15-8, 15-7, 15-5) to advance to the quarter-finals, while 1992 Barcelona Olympic gold medalist Brazil beat underdog Canada 3-0 (15-12, 16-14, 15-10) to move into the next round.

"We came here with a goal of being in the top eight," Canadian captain Russ Padock said of his team, ranked 14th in the world.

He added that "before we came we thought it was realistic and attainable but unfortunately we didn't take advantage of opportunities we had."

The top ranked Brazilians, who had lost to the United States in a surprise upset Saturday, admitted that the upcoming quarter-finals were a tough challenge.

"We are preparing for hard work because from now on there are no easy games," said Brazilian captain Antonio Gouveia.

Earlier the fifth-ranked Japanese had taken a hard attitude going into their match against fourth-ranked Holland. On Saturday they had upset defending champion Italy to scrape into the playoffs.

Japanese captain Yuichi Nakaguchi described Holland as a tougher challenge than Italy and said they were

playing better than the defending champions.

Dutch coach Joop Alberda agreed in part.

"To a certain extent I do, but I am impressed with the Italian way of serving," Alberda said. He added that the Italians were most dangerous when they kept up a high level of pressure on their serves.

"The only problem the Italians have is they can't keep up a high level of pressure... If they can keep up the pressure then they will take the championship," he said.

The Germans were also disappointed with their performance against the Russian team.

"To lose a game against Russia is not a problem. Our team not giving everything they had is a problem," said German coach Igor Priozny.

Visibly upset, German captain Rene Hecht also said his team did not play up to their capabilities.

"Once again we didn't play in a big game, we could not beat a big team," Hecht said.

Although happy with his team's victory, Russian coach Viktor Radin warned that his team needed work if it was to make it through the quarter-finals.

"Although we are playing nearly 100 per cent, we lose on receiving the ball. This cuts our effectiveness by nearly 40 per cent," Radin said. His team had lost to the 13th-ranked Greeks 3-2 Saturday.

The four playoff winners will be drawn to play against the four teams that topped their groups in the preliminary round.

Baresi quits Italy squad

FLORENCE, Italy (AP)

— Italy's football captain, Franco Baresi, is leaving the national squad, coach Arrigo Sacchi announced here Tuesday.

"I had a long and frank discussion today with Baresi," Sacchi said. "Baresi prefers to let someone else take his place. We cannot but thank this extraordinary player, one of the best players we have ever had."

The departure of the skipper, part of the squad's ongoing renewal since the World Cup final, caused surprise among his teammates and several voices their opinion that the tenacious defender should stay.

Bresi, who was not present for the press conference, later gave an emotional, impromptu interview to reporters, saying that he had thought carefully about his decision.

"I've been thinking about leaving for some time," said

the 34-year-old. "I thought about leaving after the World Cup but then I thought I still had something to give."

The turning point appeared to come with the disappointing draw against Slovenia in a European Championship qualifier last month.

"Given that I cannot guarantee my presence in the national team in 1996 (for the European Championship finals in England) or 1998 (for the World Cup finals in France), I thought that, out of respect for the coach and my teammates, it would be better for Sacchi to look to other players."

Baresi, capped 81 times by Italy and a veteran of the 1982, 1990 and 1994 World Cups, will continue club football with Italian and European champions AC Milan, with whom he is under contract until 1995.

"After that, I'll talk to the club," he said.

Tax police search Italian soccer clubs

MILAN, Italy (AP)

— Police searched the headquarters of 34 Italian soccer clubs Tuesday — including the squad owned by Premier Silvio Berlusconi — as part of an expanding investigation into alleged tax evasion.

The probe into Italy's most popular sport came two weeks after five renowned Italian fashion designers were questioned by Milan judges investigating kickbacks given to government tax inspectors to get favourable audits.

Tax police searched headquarters of first and second division clubs throughout Ita-

ly. Clubs searched included AC Milan, which is owned by Berlusconi.

Judge Gloria Attanasio said the investigation about possible tax evasion and fraudulent bookkeeping was prompted by a suit filed in August by industrialist Francesco Farina, the former president of second-division Modena.

"It's a preliminary investigation, to determine if the accusations made by Farina have some ground," Attanasio was quoted as saying by the Italian news agency ANSA.

Top seed wins in Athens

ATHENS (AP)

— Top seed Alberto Berasategui of Spain sailed through to the 2nd round Tuesday beating Andrei Cherkasov of Russia in straight sets 6-4, 6-4, in the \$200,000 Athens International tennis competition.

Carlos Costa, seeded second, was soundly beaten by Spanish compatriot Oscar Martinez 6-4, 6-2. Costa appeared tired and at times bored as he made numerous unforced errors.

Berasategui in beating Cherkasov took commanding leads in each set but almost faltered each time. In the first set with Berasategui leading 5-3, Cherkasov tried to deceive five times before succumbing.

In the 2nd set, Berasategui ahead 5-2, suddenly lost his touch as Cherkasov made a determined bid to catch up. He forced the Spaniard to play well behind the base line with powerful drives taking the score to 5-4.

Becker wins then whines at Australian Indoor tournament

SYDNEY (Agencies)

— Second seed Boris Becker complained about drinking and noise at a court-side after blasting his way to the quarter-finals of the \$895,000 Australian Indoor tennis championships here Wednesday.

The world number seven-ranked German played a devastating third set to crush American qualifier Steve Bryan 6-4, 1-6, 6-0 in 71 minutes.

But he was annoyed by the level of noise during points and a critical of the serving of food and alcohol in court-side corporate hospitality boxes in the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Sepaking on-court to fans in a question and answer session he said: "I would really like it if people wouldn't drink so much in the evening so they don't make so much noise all the time."

The 26-year-old second seed said he feared for the safety of fans sitting at either end of the court.

The front rows of seats are being used for corporate entertainment, with patrons re-

ceiving an unlimited supply of beer and wine.

"The chance of being hit is always there," the German Davis Cup player said. "With serves travelling at 190 kilometres an hour and with a glass of wine, it can be dangerous, especially for the fans in the boxes at the service ends."

"It wasn't a joke, I'm serious about this," added Becker, ranked seventh in the world. "I don't think it's the greatest idea at a tennis tournament. The longer the day gets the more they drink."

Later he said: "I don't think it's the greatest idea to have food and drink in the first row at a tennis match."

Despite his objections Becker took a sip from a court-side spectator's beer bottle when frustrated by a reversed line call at 1-5 down in the second set.

And it did him no harm as he powered past 120-ranked Bryan in the decider, conceding only eight points in winning the set in just 21 minutes. "It gave me a lift," he said.

Becker joined Dutch seventh seed Richard Krajicek in the quarter-finals and, with fifth seed Patrick Rafter of Australia, they were the only seeds remaining in the 32-man field as three more bowed out in first round matches Wednesday.

Tood Woodbridge eliminated fourth-seeded fellow Australian Jason Stoltenberg 7-5, 6-4, countryman Mark Woodforde impressed in downing sixth-seeded Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 5-2, 6-3 and Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands continued his fine form by causing eighth-seeded American David Wheaton.

Krajicek sounded a warning to the world's top 10 tennis players after beating Brett Steven 7-5, 6-3, powering 16 aces past the New Zealander.

Krajicek, 22, said he was reeling in playing pain-free this year after three years of increasing agony from damaged knees and was playing better now than he was two years ago when winning toward his career-best world No. 8 ranking.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli youngsters oppose peace process

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A hefty majority of Israelis in their final year at school are opposed to the Middle East peace process, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday. Seventy-eight per cent were against an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for peace with Syria. The Hebrew University poll of 17 and 18 year olds in 26 final year classes found 66 per cent opposed to the process aimed at bringing peace to Israel and its Arab neighbours. Only 34 per cent were in favour. Some 63 per cent thought that keeping the 150 Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was more important than peace. Sixty-five per cent had a "negative" opinion of Arabs and 77 per cent did not rule out expelling the 800,000 Arabs who live in Israel. And 56 per cent believed that Arabs hate Israel.

British envoy visits Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — British Foreign Office Minister of State Douglas Hogg arrived here Wednesday for talks with Lebanese leaders on the Middle East peace process and the relations between the two countries. Mr. Hogg, who last visited Lebanon on 1991, to meet President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. During his three-day stay, he will also visit the "Rebuild Lebanon" construction fair, where Britain has a national pavilion and is represented by 43 firms. Mr. Hogg travelled to Beirut from Damascus, where he met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and discussed Europe's role in advancing the Middle East peace process.

Israeli journalists hold meeting

NICOSIA (AFP) — Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian journalists on Wednesday wound up a three-day "Peace Media" seminar in the Cypriot capital aimed at helping to clear the hurdles of misunderstanding and misinformation. Four Palestinian journalists from the West Bank, three Israelis and three Jordanians took part in the seminar, organised by the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit and sponsored by the European Union (EU). "At a time when the peace process is hindered by misunderstanding, misinformation and at times mistrust, the need is increasing for the exchange of media know-how, for the partnerships of media professionals," said coordinator Trevor Mostyn. "Peace Media hopes to have an important influence in creating an atmosphere of sharing and of harmony and understanding in the region today."

Settlers charged in anti-Arab ring

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Jewish settlers suspected of involvement in an anti-Arab underground group were charged on Wednesday with attempted murder, conspiracy, and illegal possession of arms, Israel Radio said. The justice ministry confirmed that charges had been filed against the two, brothers Eitan and Yehoyada Kahalani from the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, and declined to specify them. The radio quoted the indictment as saying the brothers had conspired to kill Arabs with assault rifles they stole from the Israeli army.

Police arrest two in Hurghada attack

CAIRO (AP) — Police arrested two Islamic extremists Wednesday in southern Egypt on suspicion they killed a German tourist and two Egyptians in a random shooting spree in the Red Sea resort of Hurghada. Police said 11 others also were seized for being involved in planning the attack Sept. 27, but they did not say exactly where the arrests took place. The attack was the first in the Red Sea resort area, raising fears that the 2½-year campaign against the government by Islamic radicals was broadening, but there have been no incidents since in the popular tourist area. The alleged gunman are residents of Qena in southern Egypt. Police said Rabi'a Hassan and Mohammad Ahmad, both 21, "fired at random" in a busy square in Hurghada, 420 kilometres southwest of Cairo.

Ranking Algerian sports figure killed

ALGIERS (AP) — Gunmen on Wednesday killed the president of one of Algeria's most important soccer clubs as he stood in front of a home he was building for his family, authorities said. The death of Ali Tahouni was the latest in a series of killings of sports officials blamed on Islamic extremists trying to topple the military-backed government. Tahouni headed the sporting youth of Bordj Menaïel, a first division team that has for years ranked among Algeria's top three clubs. Witnesses said Tahouni was killed by three gunmen as he stood in front of his home under construction in Bordj Menaïel, about 70 kilometres east of Algiers. The gunman escaped in a car. A trainer of a police boxing team and a vice-president of a judo federation have been killed in attacks blamed on Islamic extremists.

Rebel Kurds hit Iraq pipeline

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish guerrillas bombed an idle Iraqi oil pipeline in southeast Turkey, causing a fire but little damage, a Turkish official said on Wednesday. "They hit the pipeline near Midyat (in Mardin province) last night, but there was little damage and the fire has now been put out," an official from state pipeline company Botas said. Bulldozers shovelled earth to put out the fire. Midyat is about 40 kilometres from the Iraqi border.

Indian maid kills Kuwaiti for raping her

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — An Indian house maid was arrested here on charges of murdering her 70-year-old Kuwaiti employer who she said raped her, an interior ministry official said Wednesday. Fatima Abdul Qader, 35, who was arrested Tuesday, told authorities she killed her employer for raping her several times, the official said. Around 50,000 of the 175,000 Indians living in Kuwait are working as maids.

Economic ties with Israel first step — Ben Yahia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Restoring economic ties between Israel and Tunisia is only the first step in a rapprochement between the two countries, Tunisia's Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia said Tuesday. "This is not the end of the process... we'd like to speed up the process," Mr. Ben Yahia told reporters before heading into a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It was the first public meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel and Tunisia, which have decided to restore economic ties as a first step towards establishing direct diplomatic relations.

Alleged kidnap victim goes to police

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian radio director who was allegedly kidnapped by three Palestinian security agents has agreed to talk to Israeli police, on police said. Mr. Samir Samarah, who had earlier refused to be questioned, turned up at an Israeli police station with his lawyer and was interrogated as a witness. Samarah denied he was the victim of a kidnapping. He was arrested in September at an hotel in East Jerusalem, police said. Three Palestinian security agents have been accused of arresting Mr. Samarah and taking him to the self-rule enclave of Jericho for questioning about theft.

Ekeus continues talks as Iraq stiffens stand

NICOSIA (Agencies) — U.N. special envoy Rolf Ekeus continued talks with senior Iraqi leaders Wednesday on when long-term monitoring of the country's weapons programmes will begin amid signs that another confrontation between Baghdad and the United Nations may be shaping up.

Baghdad Radio reported that Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission charged with destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, met with Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf Tuesday and would hold more talks Wednesday. The radio said there was a "serious and frank discussion" on Baghdad's relationship with the U.N. Security Council and the special commission.

It gave no details, but Baghdad has been making increasingly strident demands that the crippling U.N. trade sanctions imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 should now be lifted. Iraqi compliance with a

long-term monitoring programme stipulated under Security Council Resolution 687 is a central condition for lifting the oil embargo, the key component in the sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus, who arrived in Baghdad Monday, is scheduled to report to the Security Council Oct. 10 on whether the monitoring programme is ready to be tested and on Iraq's cooperation with his team.

Baghdad insists that it has complied fully with all the ceasefire conditions laid down by the Security Council at the end of the 1991 Gulf war and that the United Nations should start easing the sanctions once the monitoring programme starts.

Iraq meanwhile blamed the four-year U.N. embargo for the deaths of one million Iraqis as it stepped up warnings to stop cooperating with the United Nations if the economic sanctions were not lifted soon.

If the sanctions were not lifted soon, the government

daily Al Jumburiyah said, "we will challenge everything agreed on during our cooperation (with the U.N.) and return to a situation similar to that which prevailed when the (Gulf) crisis erupted."

In a stinging attack on Mr. Ekeus, Al Jumburiyah said: "If we have shown patience toward your manoeuvring we will not keep silent about the crime of collective extermination of the Iraqi people."

The embargo "has caused the deaths of one million people" in Iraq, the paper said.

It accused Mr. Ekeus of "deliberately causing deaths and ridiculing the Iraqi people with promises to lift the embargo, which will be broken finally, in spite of you."

The paper said in a front-page editorial: "Thrones will shake, stomachs will be gouged out and armies shall march on" to avenge "this vicious crime."

Official media said on Wednesday the government

had decided to offer all means possible to help tens of thousands of stateless Arabs — bedouin — to pitch their tents along the Iraq-Kuwait border in protest against their expulsion by Kuwaiti authorities.

Al Jumburiyah said there was no way for Baghdad to keep silent on "the genocide" of its people.

The hardening tone reflects the increasingly burdensome effects of sanctions, which drove Iraqi authorities last week to slash food rations by up to 50 per cent for some items.

Prices of scarce staple foods have surged in Baghdad and are now beyond the reach of ordinary Iraqis.

"The ungodly (Washington and London) are mistaken... we shall never let our people go hungry," President Saddam Hussein said in a speech carried in the official press.

Iraq has been conducting an intensive diplomatic campaign to win support for its positions in recent weeks with some success.

Russia, China and France have said that if Mr. Ekeus' report is positive, Baghdad should be given a deadline for easing the sanctions.

But the other two permanent members of the Security Council, the United States and Britain, oppose that and insist the embargo cannot be lifted until Iraq also recognises Kuwait's sovereignty and a U.N.-demarcated border and halts human rights abuses.

None of the U.N. resolutions involved in these areas are related to the sanctions issue, but the Americans have been backed by Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf Arab states.

Washington underscored its hard-line position Sept. 23, when Central Intelligence Agency Director James Woolsey alleged that far from complying with the United Nations, Iraq was "still hiding" Scud missiles, chemical munitions, and its entire biological weapons warfare programme.

Gaza police free five more DFLP activists

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority on Wednesday released five more members of an opposition faction after questioning them about an attack on Israeli soldiers, the group said.

Palestinian police arrested 65 members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) on Sunday, a few hours after shots were fired at Israeli troops.

Senior DFLP official Wael Khalaf said five more men were released raising to 15 the number freed since Sunday.

According to police officials, at least 25 have been freed.

Mr. Khalaf, who represents the organisation in negotiations with other PLO factions, told AFP he was released Tuesday after "they questioned me about an attack claimed by Red Star, and a statement released by them."

Red Star, the DFLP's military wing, claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack in a statement which also blasted the authority and threatened civil war.

Describing jail conditions, Mr. Khalaf said "the police really tried as much as possible to treat us well and there was good cooperation between us."

"But, prison conditions such as food, cleanliness and bedding were poor."

The DFLP, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction, is opposed to the autonomy agreement with Israel, and has vowed to fight the deal.

Meanwhile, the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad group released a statement condemning the arrests and calling for the detainees' immediate release.

Nine members of the group are also in Palestinian jails in connection with the murder of an Israeli soldier early last month.

They have started court proceedings against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and three other senior officials for illegally keeping them in jail without charge.

Gaza police commander Brigadier-General Ghazi Al Jabali said 30 DFLP members were still in custody.

Radical Syria-based Palestinian factions condemned the arrests and branded the move "suspicious behaviour."

The 10 factions said in a statement that the Palestinian police have been "turned into... suppressive tools at the hands of the occupation forces to confront the Palestinian people."

The 10 factions demanded the immediate release of all the detainees and warned PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of the dangers of a civil war, which it said, "Arafat and his police are planning to bring about."

They pledged to escalate armed struggle against the Israelis.

They urged international and regional institutions to stand by the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people until they achieve their goals and to exert all-out efforts to rein in Israel's inhuman behaviour."



BANNED FROM CLASS: Muslim schoolgirls wearing headscarves are banned to enter classrooms by Michel Thomas, principal of the Faidherbe high school, on Wednesday after Education Minister Francois Bayrou ordered a

ban on "ostentatious" religious signs. Muslim schoolgirls continued a demonstration outside the school on Wednesday to protest the ban. (AFP photo)

Time running out for Haitian junta

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — The United States searched for signs Wednesday that the two remaining members of Haiti's military junta were about to leave the country as the countdown began for the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"We would anticipate the other two will resign their posts soon," said U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger of armed forces chief Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and his Chief of Staff Brigadier General Philippe Biamby.

"They are not obligated to leave the country, but we hope they would make for a smooth transition," he added.

The third member of the triumvirate that overthrew Mr. Aristide in a bloody coup of Sept. 30, 1991, Port-Au-Prince police chief Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Michel Francois, fled Haiti for the Dominican Republic on Tuesday.

Gen. Cedras and Gen. Biamby, who have both

vowed to stand down by Oct. 15, have so far given no sign that they will go into exile as Mr. Aristide wants.

Other than a curt "don't push" to journalists who pressed around him at a military funeral ceremony for 10 Haitians killed by U.S. troops in a firefight at Cap-Haitien, Gen. Cedras had nothing to say Wednesday.

Gen. Cedras, Gen. Biamby and the president they installed, Emile Jeanne, all stood to solemn attention as the 10 military coffins were lowered into the graves.

The Haitians killed in the Sept. 24 Cap-Haitien shoot-out had been buried by the Americans in the northern city, but were exhumed by the military and brought here to accord them full ceremonial honours.

The United States sent in 20,000 troops to take part in Operation Uphold Democracy from Sept. 19, the day after the military junta overthrew a full-scale U.S. invasion by agreeing to stand down.

Israel must quit Golan — Mubarak

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syria has "every honest intention" to make peace with Israel but not without a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday.

Mr. Mubarak's assessment came on the eve of the 21st anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and only days before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in the region to try to push forward stalled Syrian-Israeli talks.

Mr. Mubarak addressed the nation on television before the anniversary, which is an Egyptian national holiday.

"We are sure that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the Syrian people have every honest intention of establishing a just and continuous peace," Mr. Mubarak said.

"Our position is clear and needs no explanation. We believe that there is an alternative to a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories

and the Golan Heights."

On Tuesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Washington that Syria must compromise in order to have peace.

Mr. Peres called Syria's demand for all of the Golan Heights only an initial move in the negotiations to be resumed this weekend through Mr. Christopher.

"He has his opening position," Mr. Peres said at a news conference. "We have our opening position... if the Syrian leader will not compromise, he will not have peace."

Israel's opening position was to offer Syria a phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for diplomatic and economic relations, but without any promise to give up all the land.

Mr. Christopher will travel to the Middle East this weekend, his fifth trip to the area since May, mostly to try to hurry a peace accord between Israel and Syria.

Moves under way to ease Bosnia standoff

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.N. peacekeepers helped Muslim hospital patients from Gorazde across Serb lines on Wednesday in the first of a series of moves to restart the crippled U.N. relief machine in Bosnia.

Tasushi Akashi, Japanese head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission, arrived from Zagreb to persuade Bosnian Serb leaders to reopen Sarajevo airport and let aid convoys to move freely. He acknowledged that "it will be tough."

U.N. operations have been in disarray as a result of Serb retaliation for a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strike on Sept. 22.

Aid official Kris Janowski, coping with a growing crisis for Sarajevo's 350,000 inhabitants, said: "Basically, there's food to the end of the

week. If the airport doesn't resume soon or if we don't get clearances for massive convoys, the situation in Sarajevo will get quite difficult some time next week."

Bad weather disrupted U.N. plans to evacuate 26 patients by helicopter from the Gorazde enclave of eastern Bosnia to the Kosovo hospital in Sarajevo.

They left by road instead and the delay postponed the next move in a step-by-step agreement between the warring sides to exchange up to 400 prisoners of war. This was due to happen only when the medical evacuation was complete.

Mr. Akashi met with Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic in Sarajevo ahead of his meeting in Pale with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Aides said his session with Mr. Karadzic at Pale outside

the Bosnian capital was "potentially one of the most important of the war."

The envoy told reporters he would seek the reopening of the airport, where the Serbs have threatened to shoot down U.N. aircraft, and the reopening of blocked roads.

He stressed that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was "the only remaining channel of negotiations" for the Serbs.

Mr. Akashi and his military commanders are resisting demands by the United States and NATO for more and tougher air strikes against the Serbs who have rejected an international peace plan for Bosnia.

The NATO air attack which angered the Serbs was in response to shooting on U.N. peacekeepers inside the Sarajevo weapons exclusion zone in which a French sol-

dier was seriously wounded. Peacekeepers said the blockade of UNPROFOR and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoys eased on Wednesday.

Three UNHCR convoys waited outside Gorazde for permission to cross the last Serb checkpoints and 20 UNPROFOR supply convoys were allowed to cross Serb territory.

Meanwhile blue-and-white Aeroflot jets carrying an envoy from Serbia's traditional friend Russia touched down Wednesday in Belgrade, heralding the first crack in 28 months of near total isolation.

Serb officials welcomed the reopening of Surcin airport in the Serbian and Yugoslav capital as a modest first step towards bringing Yugoslavia back into the international fold.

COLUMN

Stars prepare to set Sarajevo a rockin'

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Leading British rock and pop stars are set to give a series of concerts in Sarajevo next month, the brainchild of a former biker working for U.N. Bosnia commander Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose. Planning is well advanced for the event, with more than 1,000 Sarajevo rock fans expected to pack Sarajevo's Cultural Centre on each night of the three-date run, planned for mid-November. Working with Black Sabbath drummer Cozy Powell the Rose side, known to all here simply by his nickname — "Goose" — has persuaded Spandau Ballet vocalist Tony Hadley to front a scratch band featuring Pretenders bassist Jamie Moses, sometime White Snake and Black Sabbath lead guitarist Neil Murray, and Spike Edney, who has worked with rock giants Eric Clapton and Queen. The finishing touches are being put to the series of concerts and the United Nations has been approached for funding.

"I saw Mozart's Requiem at the library and the people who were there, and it was more for your VIPs than the people," Goose said, referring to the May concert which featured Spanish tenor Jose Carreras and Israeli conductor Zubin Mehta. "So I said to the general on the way back what about a rock concert for the kids of this city. He turned around and said 'what a good idea,'" said Goose. Another Rose aide Major Michael Stanley said the general had thrown his full weight behind the project. "He is very keen to try to normalise life in Sarajevo." The rock concert followed a March football match in the city organised by the British general, who had overseen eight months of relative calm in the city since the February signing of a ceasefire accord between the Bosnian government and besieging Serbs.

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